

Hafa Adai!

Settlement conference date set in Yamamoto lawsuit. **PAGE 3**
BECQ holds demonstration for new app. **PAGE 7**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 4

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY JANUARY 6, 2017

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75¢

Tarkong pursues court action vs DPS

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police officer Jason T. Tarkong intends to pursue his discrimination lawsuit against the Department of Public Safety, asserting that “a grievance is about righting a wrong.”

» **DPS counsel says even Tarkong admits he is not eligible for sergeant position**

Tarkong, through counsel Robert T. Torres, said that DPS, despite admitting errors in the selection process, considers the nature of Tarkong’s grievance as an appeal over his non-selection for a promotion and essentially seeks to dismiss his grievance, in essence arguing that even if they did it wrong, it doesn’t mean he is right.

Torres said DPS’ position demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding of Tarkong’s grievance.

Torres said Tarkong has grieved the process followed under examination announcement no. 15-052—a process



Tarkong

that resulted in a former police officer 2 (who was not eligible

See TARKONG on Page 4

New House members get committees

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six incoming Republican Party members who won seats in the House of Representatives are each set to head committees once the 20th Legislature is inaugurated on Monday at the House chamber on Capital Hill. The formal announcement is expected on Monday.

The Republican super majority split some committees

and created a few new ones to address social issues in the CNMI.

Representatives-elect Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Ivan A. Blanco, Alice S. Igitol, Jose I. Itibus, and Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. are the new lawmakers in the House, while Francisco S. Dela Cruz and Janet U. Maratita are returning members. All representatives-elect ran under the

See HOUSE on Page 4



SENATE SINE DIE

Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), center, and Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), right, talk to Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) during a recess in yesterday’s Senate sine die session at the Senate Chamber inside the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

JON PEREZ

See story on Page 4

Dog left to drown at Smiling Cove now recovering

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A dog of about seven months old was left to drown at the Smiling Cove Marina for about a week before an animal wel-

fare group received a call last Dec. 30 regarding the situation.

As of yesterday, the dog has been recovering and will be up for adoption after a few more weeks of recovery.

Saipan Cares for Animals

received a call by someone who went by the name “Capt. Gunnar,” reporting the dog to be tied to a heavy rock and left to drown eventually.

Beth Pliscou, president of SCA, shared that it would

take a few weeks for the dog to fully recover. Pliscou believes the dog was not abused prior to the being tied to the rock, “but it was definitely neglected.”

See DOG on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan took the oath of office along with 439 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday.

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NATION

President Barack Obama urged congressional Democrats to “look out for the American people” in defending his legacy health care overhaul.

PAGE 20



LIFE & STYLE

Oscar favorites “Moonlight,” “La La Land” and “Manchester by the Sea” landed Writers Guild Award nominations on Wednesday, but so did the R-rated “X-Men” spinoff “Deadpool.”

PAGE 25



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Local

Federal court forfeits 2 guns, ammo seized from ex-convict

The federal court has forfeited to the U.S. government the two guns and ammunition that were seized from Herman P. Santos, an ex-convict who entered a guilty plea to an indictment that charged him with two counts of felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued the forfeiture as a result of Santos' guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Manglona ordered that Santos shall relinquish to the U.S. all right, title, and interest in one Harrington and Richardson .32 caliber revolver, one Savage Arms 410/22 "over and under" firearm, three rounds of .32 caliber ammunitions, 11

rounds of .22 ammunition, and two .410 shotgun shells.

The judge ordered the return to Santos any additional funds and/or items that were confiscated at the time of his arrest.

According to the indictment, Santos, having been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of exceeding one year, knowingly possessed a Harrington and Richardson model 732 .32 caliber revolver and three rounds of .32 caliber ammunition, on Dec. 6, 2015.

Santos was also allegedly found in possession of a Savage Arms Model 24 410/22 "over and under" firearm and 11 rounds of .22 ammunition and two .410 shotgun shells,

See **FEDERAL** on Page 4

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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Settlement conference date set in Yamamoto lawsuit

A settlement meeting in the case filed by Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owner and operators of cargo ship M/V *Luta* has a new date.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI reset yesterday the settlement conference on Jan. 13, 2017 at 9am at the federal

courthouse on Saipan.

The conference was originally set for Jan. 12, 2017, set by U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood.

It was supposed to take place before U.S. Magistrate Judge Joaquin V. E. Manibusan Jr. But because of Mani-

busan's scheduling conflict, he directed the court's clerk to secure a new date.

Manibusan ordered all parties to attend the settlement. He required each party to submit a confidential settlement letter by Jan. 9 at 3pm.

The letter should set the party's statement of the case,

including strengths and weaknesses, and the party's settlement position, including the last offer or demand made by the party, and a statement of the offer or demand the party is prepared to make at the conference.

Yamamoto, boat captain Michael Brochon and six vessel crewmembers, Norton Lilly International, and Long Consulting, and defendants Luta Mermaid LLC, Luta Mermaid president Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola earlier informed the court that they agree to a settlement conference.

Hocog did not inform any of the parties whether he agrees, or not, to a settlement conference. Hocog did not appear at the Dec. 21, 2016, hearing.

Defendant Robert Toelkes apparently has not been served with the complaint as of yet.

Yamamoto is suing Hocog, M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC, Abelina T. Mendiola, Deron T. Mendiola, Fidel S. Mendiola III, Fidel Mendiola Jr., and Toelkes for breach of contract, fraud, and unjust enrichment.

Yamamoto alleged that Hocog and his co-defendants refused to pay back the \$3.4

million that he put up for M/V *Luta*. He asked the court that the vessel be condemned and be sold to pay his demands, including interest and cost.

With the filing of the lawsuit, the U.S. Marshal Service seized M/V *Luta* last Oct. 25 and appointed the National Maritime Services Inc. as custodian of the vessel.

Brochon and the ship's six crew, Norton Lilly International Inc., and Long Consulting then intervened in Yamamoto's lawsuit allegedly to collect unpaid wages and services.

Man allegedly beats up wife at her workplace

Police arrested in Kagman 3 on Wednesday afternoon a man who allegedly beat up his wife at her workplace when she told him she had no milk for their baby.

Benjamin R. Rios Jr., 28, also allegedly called his wife on the phone and threatened to kill her and their 11-month old son.

A witness warned police that Rios owns a .223 Magnum and several weapons that he brings with him in his blue truck.

Police served an arrest warrant on Rios for assault, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace (domestic violence). The report did not mention if any gun was seized from him. His bail was set yesterday at \$15,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Jan. 11 at 9am.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered Rios to surrender all his weapons.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Rios. Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley appeared for the government.

Police said the victim called the Department of Public Safety on Monday at 11:33am to complain that her husband, Rios, beat her up at

a store in western Garapan where she works.

A police officer located Rios in Kagman that noon and arrested him. Rios was then released as police did further investigation. On Wednesday, police re-arrested him on the strength of an arrest warrant.

The victim told police that she was at work when Rios came and asked her for milk for their baby. As she had none, she told him she would go and buy some. Rios allegedly got mad, punched her twice in the face, pulled her hair, then left and drove away. She called the police.

On Tuesday afternoon, the wife called DPS Central again after Rios contacted her on the phone and threatened to kill her and their baby.

The wife alleged that Rios has been beating her up for quite some time now and that he would get mad for no reason.

Police said a witness confirmed that Rios called the store on Tuesday and when told that his wife was not

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Mr. Joseph Javier walked into USave Supermarket on Dec. 30, 2016 to purchase some sodas, but before leaving, he bought 1 Cash To Go, and 1 Lucky Pig of NMSA's Instant Scratchies tickets, and won himself \$1,000 instantly on the Cash To Go ticket. He was so excited to have won just in time for New Year's Eve.



AS 19TH LEGISLATURE ENDS

Senate to continue to address critical issues

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Senate said they would continue to address critical issues that would impact the people of the CNMI as the economy continues to see growth. All eight senators, minus Senate President Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Tinian), made their remarks in yesterday's sine die session at the Senate Chamber of the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

Borja was excused in the final session of the Senate because of health reasons with Senate vice president Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) as presiding officer.

Palacios said the Commonwealth is expected to face more challenges in the future that is why the incoming Legislature—House and the Senate—should work closely to push for critical bills that would address the issues.

"The last two years were a major challenge to all of us and the Senate played a major role in addressing the issues that happened during those times. Together with the House and the administration, we were able to help resolve some of those issues and find funding solutions," Palacios said.

"There are other challenges

that are coming our way and with all of you returning we will have the opportunity to continue to work harder as the CNMI continues to savor renewed progress. There is also the demand for the government to pay its past obligations."

The CNMI, in the fiscal year 2017 budget, had appropriated money to pay some of its past dues like at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and land compensation and judgments, and allocated supplemental funds for the retirees' bonuses, Public School System, Medical Referral Program, and Commonwealth Health Center.

Palacios added a better-trained workforce is one of the critical issues that needs to be addressed in the coming Legislature. "A trained workforce would open up great opportunities to them."

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) said that being a Legislator is one of the hardest jobs adding in jest that is the reason why they are having a lot of gray hair and wrinkle on their faces. "But it is an indication that we're working hard. The problems of the people are also our problems."

"Our duty is to provide services for the community. Ours is a 24-hour job, we are already thinking of tomorrow on what legislation to intro-

duce or pursue that would give better service to the people of the CNMI."

Public Laws 19-7 (giving teachers a voice in the CNMI State Board of Education), PL 19-22 (removing the developer tax for the quality control program), PL 19-54 (stop the importation of illegal pesticides), and PL 19-65 (educational financial assistance to eligible recipients enrolled in accredited higher institution or trades school) are some of the critical bills that both the Senate and House passed.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) reminded his colleagues the people of the CNMI place their support and trust to the Legislature that's why they need to perform their duties at their best. "We need to be vigilant because sometimes it is like jumping in a pool of plastic balls filled with needles. We must make things comfortable for the people. We must be selfless and always put the people's interest first."

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) thanked his colleagues for supporting critical legislation to improve the government's service to the people of the Commonwealth and at the same time lending a helping hand at his committee, Executive Appointments and Gov-

ernment Investigations.

"I thank you for your cooperation, and for your patience and understanding as we passed critical legislation for the Commonwealth. I also thank all of you for your support in my committee as we screen individuals that were either appointed or nominated by the governor."

He added that he is ready to continue to push for some of his bills that would address the concerns of the CNMI but most importantly the people of the Second Senatorial District. "We will never give up and I would re-introduce these bills that got held up at the House."

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), a four-time Senate president, is optimistic on how the 20th Legislature would work for this year. "We must think of fairness and of the public before we roll up our sleeves for the coming Legislature. I thank the public, particularly the people of Rota for their trust that they gave me to again serve in the Senate."

Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) said he is hoping the Senate would again do their share in the coming Legislature in passing bills that would continue to move the Commonwealth forward. "We're hoping to address more issues since the economy is grow-

ing. Medical referral patients, youth, and the drug problem are some of the issues that needs to be addressed."

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) said that the collaborative effort of CNMI officials achieved some of the goals that improved the livelihood of the CNMI people. But, she added, their work is not yet done. "However, there are still pressing issues of critical importance to our people that were not fully addressed during this tenure."

"Consequently, these matters such as medical referral program, health, land compensation, infrastructures, air and service transportation etc. should be given immediate attention during the forthcoming 20th legislature. We are fully aware though that resolving these matters would require a robust economy."

DOG

From Page 1

"The dog had snails and other organisms living on him and based on that, we guess he may have been in the ocean like that for as long as a week," said Pliscou.

Pliscous said SCA would nurse the dog back to health and was quite surprised, because, "He [had] a sweet personality and is playful and cuddly, which is amazing given the way he lived his life until now."

SCA named the dog Gunnar, after the man who called the dog in.

Multiple cases of animal abuse

As of this writing, there are no local laws protecting animals from abuse.

SCA claims that they have been receiving and treating numerous animals that have been victims of abuse.

SCA volunteer Sarah Gross shared some of many gruesome incidents regarding animal abuse.

"We have seen cases of a dog that had a bullet lodged in its heart. Someone shot it," said Gross. "But we were able to save the dog. A cat came in

Senate leadership

Palacios, the Senate vice president, would be the next Senate president as it is Saipan's turn to take over the post. Palacios would be the first elected official that would head both chambers of the Legislature as he was the House Speaker of the 16th.

Mensgon is reportedly to become the Senate vice president, while Borja is interested in taking over as floor leader.

The Senate president, once the leadership had been settled, would then appoint chairs and members to the eight committees: rules and procedure; public utilities, transportation, and communication; judiciary, government, and law; health and welfare; fiscal affairs; federal relations and independent agencies; executive appointments and government investigations; and education and youth affairs.

and someone had split its head wide open—that cat as well we were able to save."

"We have had many cases of scalding hot oil poured on animals. This is extremely painful and we've been able to save some of these animals, and not save others. All of these acts are completely legal on Saipan, and we need the public's support to pass a law to change it," she said.

According to Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan), the CNMI is the only U.S. territory or state to not have any form of animal protection laws.

"There have been numerous reports on incidents of animal cruelty that even include torture and maiming, but no one can be prosecuted for these malicious attacks on domesticated animals because there are no laws against it," said Propst.

Propst wishes his proposed law, House Bill 19-55 HD1 also known as the Animal Protection Act of 2015, passes the Senate for the protection of domesticated animals.

A petition has been started by SCA in support to the passing of HB 19-55 HD1. As of Jan. 5, 6:30pm, 683 have signed the petition.

Sign the petition at www.saipancaresforanimals.com.

TARKONG

From Page 1

for reemployment priority listing) and a serving police officer 1 (who leap-frogged two promotion levels in the process) to be awarded the positions of sergeant even though experience as a police officer 3 was a requirement—not that he should have been selected.

Torres said Tarkong's petition seeks judicial review of DPS and Civil Service Commission's inaction on his grievance.

Tarkong, a veteran of the CNMI's police force, is suing DPS and CSC for alleged dis-

criminatory practices after he was not promoted to the rank of sergeant. CSC has already been dismissed from the case.

DPS, through assistant attorney general Tom Schweiger, moved for the dismissal of Tarkong's petition.

Schweiger said the CNMI law doesn't allow for job applicants to a civil service position to complain that they should have been chosen over other eligible candidates.

Schweiger said the hiring and promotion process would be shut down if every non-successful applicant could demand a hearing why they and not the other guy should have been hired.

In this case, Schweiger pointed out that Tarkong alleges that none of the applicants on the list were eligible, but he even admits that he too was ineligible.

He said Tarkong suffered no harm because he didn't get the position.

Schweiger added that Civil Service regulations specifically prohibits Tarkong from complaining about his non-selection.

In Tarkong's opposition, Torres said the grievance process for CNMI employees allows them to seek review of a wrong in order to set it right, including a wrong committed by the government for failure

to follow the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations and the Civil Service Act.

Torres said DPS' arguments show the manner in which it has addressed Tarkong's grievance: ignore it, deny responsibility for it, "kick the can down the road" to deal with it later, or hope it just goes away.

Rather than encouraging a hearing to take place to further employee acceptance and support of the merit promotion program, DPS instead chose to fight such openness with a motion to dismiss that fails to give the court guidance on the standard it is to apply, and is unsupported by facts, Torres said.

HOUSE

From Page 1

local Republican Party.

The other House members are GOP representatives Edwin P. Aldan, Angel A. Demapan, Rafael S. Demapan, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Joseph Leepan Guerrero, Glenn L. Maratita, and John Paul Sablan, and the independent bloc of Blas Jonathan T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, Vinson E. Sablan, and minority leader Edmund S. Villagomez.

Aguon will head the Welfare Committee that was re-named the Human Services Committee, while Barcinas will get Transportation, which was formerly part of the Public Utilities Committee. Blanco will be the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chairman, while Igitol will take over the role of the Natural Resources Committee chief. Itibus and Sablan will each chair the Health, and Federal and Foreign Affairs committees.

Janet U. Maratita is the incoming vice speaker, while Dela Cruz would lead the

Public Utilities and Communications Committee. Both are former representatives in the 18th House of Representatives, when Dela Cruz was the vice speaker.

The leadership had decided that House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan would remain at his post, while Rota representative Glenn L. Maratita will be the floor leader. Tinian's Aldan will head the Education Committee and Angel A. Demapan would take over the reins of Ways and Means.

Outgoing vice speaker and former speaker Joseph P. De-

leon Guerrero will head the new Gaming Committee to monitor the new casino industry, while Guerrero will retain his post as Commerce and Tourism chairman. Sablan, a former Division of Customs Services officer, wants to serve anew as the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chief.

The incoming House members of the 20th Legislature were briefed yesterday on the activities and program for the inauguration. An inaugural Mass will be held tomorrow at 6pm at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

FEDERAL

From Page 2

on June 3, 2016.

According to Superior Court records, the Dec. 6, 2015 incident stemmed from the arrest of Santos for allegedly pointing a handgun at two men he accused of beating up his father at a poker establishment in Garapan.

Police officers later checked

the back of Santos' house, where they recovered a .32 revolver handgun with three bullets in the cylinder. That same day, Dec. 6, police arrested him.

In January 2016, the Superior Court dismissed the amended information charging Santos with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, upon the Office of the Attorney General's request. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

Expansion eyed for CHC

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday shared its plans for the renovation of the CNMI's lone hospital.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna believes that the Commonwealth Health Center is long due for a renovation due to the continuous increase in population of the CNMI.

"Thirty years after it was built in 1986, the building that houses the hospital and other CHCC offices are in need of renovation and expansion," said Muna.

Muna said original plans for CHC were focused on providing hospital services to a population of less than 20,000. According to real-time world statistics website worldometers.info, the population of the CNMI as of 2016 has reached 55,389.

"The number of patients CHCC treats has increased right along with an increasing population. When the hospital was being designed [in the 1980s], the latest census figures show the population as 16,780," said Muna in an email that included a citation of sources.

Muna plans to extend multiple rooms that are essential to the hospital such as the emergency room, the chemotherapy room, and the trauma room, all of which are overwhelmed by the growing population.

Muna said through the population increase, CHCC needs not only to expand, but redesigned and renovated as well.

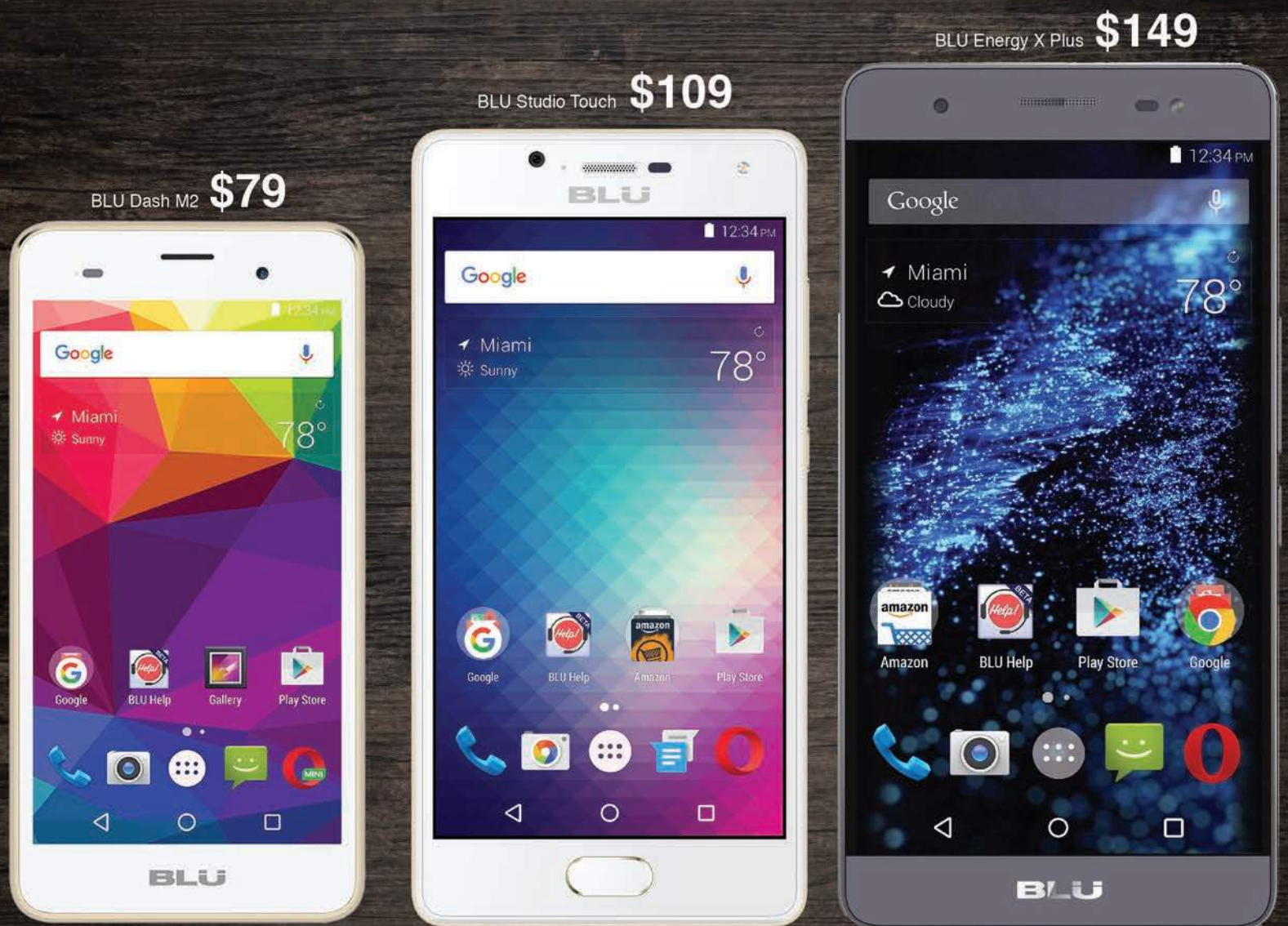
"Since the hospital was built, numerous new regulations were implemented. Best practices were difficult to implement because of how the building was designed, which was to treat a population of less than 20,000," said Muna.

Muna also mentioned that the renovation of CHC also has its patients in mind.

"It's all about the work environment. The renovations will be able to provide an improved patient experience," she said. (Erwin Encinares)

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JON PEREZ

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), center, said he is just taking a break from his legislative duties but will still be an active member of the community.

AS HOUSE HOLD FINAL SESSION

‘Cooperation brought CNMI back on track’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said that the full cooperation of the CNMI’s officials helped brought the Commonwealth back on the road to economic recovery after years of being stagnant and the government implementing belt-tightening measures.

Sablan, in his remarks in last Wednesday’s House sine die session, enumerated some of the CNMI’s problems almost five years ago. “Government shutdown, delayed payrolls, Retirement Fund issues, bankruptcies, rock bottom government revenues, and declining tourism numbers were some of the issues back then.”

“But with the dedication and hard work that we’ve shown, and with the support of the administration of the late governor Eloy Inos and now Gov. Ralph Torres, and our Senate counterparts, we have successfully brought the CNMI back toward economic recovery.”

He said as elected officials they were given the opportunity to do what’s best for the CNMI. “Not too many people get to do what we do. That’s why without hesitation, I can confidently say that I have served the people of the CNMI well and made things better.”

Sablan is one of five House members who lost their re-election bids last November. He was the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, which is tasked to draft legislation that would appropriate funds of the government and other revenue-raising bills.

House floor leader George N. Camacho (R-Saipan), minority leader Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), and Reps. Anthony T. Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Roman C. Benavente, and Ralph N. Yumul were also unlucky in the last elections. Reps. Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan) and Francis S. Taimanao (Ind-Saipan) decided not to seek re-election.

Sablan said that those years

were a difficult challenge for the Commonwealth, but it is during those times that tough decisions should be made. “It was obviously it was difficult, but it was also clear that we could no longer just sit down and hope for things to get better. We have to muster the courage to make even the difficult and often times controversial decisions to make things better.”

He added that bringing the CNMI’s economy back on its feet was one of the accomplishments that the 19th Legislature is part of. “With the courage, dedication, and hard work, I believe that we have come a long way in a short time.”

Sablan then lined up some of the achievements that took place in the last three years. “We have restored investor confidence that resulted in the retirees receiving 100 percent of their pensions and at the same time were given a bonus.”

“Tourism numbers continue to rise and this increased job opportunities. We also provided training and better education to our school system. We improved health-care and the medical referral program. [We] had salary adjustments for government employees. And the government having to pay some of its outstanding obligations like in land compensation and judgments.”

He added that he has authored bills that became laws but considers the fight the drug problem and the creation of a multiagency task force against it as his major contribution. “We now made some progress with the creation of the drug court. And the Legislature has appropriated \$2 million for the new substance abuse program.”

“We also increased funding for Customs for additional manpower and equipment. Provided funding to support programs to rehabilitate individuals who were affected by this menace in our society so they could become productive members of our community. We are working toward the elimination of this problem.”

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CNMI GOP celebration night raises over \$150K

Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall was filled to capacity last Dec. 30 with businessmen, political leaders, and supporters from all over the CNMI and Guam joining together to celebrate an improving economy and successful year in the CNMI.

The ballroom was decorated with floral arrangements and tables dressed up distinctly classifying gold benefactors, silver sponsors and individual patrons. In total, the signature event raised over \$150,000.

Master of ceremony and newly re-elected representative Angel Demapan introduced CNMI Re-

publican Party president James Ada who delivered the appreciation message. This was followed by a video clip that depicted the progress with new infrastructure; the recovery efforts since the 2015 typhoon; and new businesses that have been spurred by the collaboration between the Republican Party Leadership and the business community. The message was clear—the economy is improving!

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, *Saipan Tribune* 2016 Person of the Year, gave an inspiring message about the people's resiliency that overcame the

worst typhoon to strike the CNMI in 40 years, how we dealt with the tragedy and our strength to move forward. Torres expressed that a steady and stable business sector is vital for the CNMI's economy to improve and grow.

Torres touted new revenues available for education, health, environmental protection, law enforcement, tourism, and various public projects as the CNMI tax base grows from the strength of the private sector.



Torres

Ending his remarks, Torres called on the continued support of the Republican Party's platform to carry on the forward momentum of economic progress.

"We need to continue the momentum and support of the Republican Party that is striving for the betterment of all. We need to continue to maintain the Republican Leadership that has worked so hard for us in our Legislature and we must maintain the governorship to see our

great vision for the CNMI become a reality."

Torres emphasized, "We must sustain the momentum, share ideas on common-sense and solutions-driven policy, and work together as one community to make the CNMI, our home, prosper."

The highest level sponsors, the corporate gold benefactors to join the celebration included Saipan Globe Int'l Group, Ltd.; Marianas Consultancy; IT&E; L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.; Alter City Group Inc.; Bridge Investment Group, LLC; Bridge Capital,

LLC; and Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.

The corporate silver sponsors were Juan Santiago Tenorio of JET Enterprise; Honest Profit International; Docomo Pacific; JK Investment, and Net Tour, Guam.

Ada said, following the event, "The Republican Party extends its gratitude to all who attended and donated for their continued support, which has reaffirmed one of the main foundations of the Republican Party—that the success of the public services comes from a vibrant business sector." (PR)



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By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental or Coastal Quality demonstrated yesterday their new web application to the public, reducing if not totally eliminating conflicts in information between government agencies and land developers.

The website application, or web app is called the Public Permitting App. The PPA is an interactive map that shows what can and cannot be done to a specific site, should anyone be interested in developing the area. Already included in the map are information acquired from different government agencies, such as water

BECQ holds demonstration for new app

pipes of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., among others.

Robbie Greene, GIS specialist of BECQ, shares that the app was created to provide a single source of land information for the public so that conflicts in information is less likely to occur.

"Because we have so many consultants and developers right now that are not necessary familiar with the regulations and the processes that they have to go through to get permits, [the app] allows them to access all the information that they need for the permitting process," said Greene. "It

also makes sure that the applicant and the regulatory agency are both using the same information, which has been a huge stumbling block in the past."

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration representative to BECQ Rachel Bouchillon shared the application could not be downloaded to a smartphone, but could be accessed through a website or through a smartphone's browser.

"This app is supposed to be a one-stop shop for government agencies, business developers, and just the public in general that is interested in finding information about per-

mitting considerations in the CNMI," said Bouchillon.

Bouchillon shared if the need arises, a mobile application may be developed.

The application utilizes the Geographic Information System, a computer system for displaying data related to the earth's surface that was previously captured, stored, and checked. Greene shares there are many apps that could be utilized by both the public and government agencies.

"The shoreline access guide is really useful because it tells people where you can access the beach, what that beach has

in terms of amenities, what the beach is used for, and all that good stuff," said Greene.

"We have a lagoon news viewer. We spent some time with all the different marine sports operators, fishermen, windsurfers, etc. to try and figure out where the most uses and interactions among uses is going on, so if anyone wants to identify a route for a dinner cruise or something like that, they can go here and just see all the different routes," he added.

Greene mentioned a bunch of other apps, such as visuals of coral bleaching sites in the CNMI, visuals of scenes from when Typhoon Soudelor hit, among many others that can be accessed through the website.

Clicking on the link under "Interactive DCRM APC MAP" in crm.gov.mp through any browser would provide access to the web app.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2016 W2-CM forms now available

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance has started distributing the 2016 W2-CM and Annual Reconciliation forms and instructions at their office in the Joeten Dan Dan Building. Businesses, employers, and all payroll service providers are encouraged to reserve forms needed by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or by fax at 664-1015. As a reminder, all forms are required to be filed at Revenue and Taxation by Feb. 28, 2017. (PR)

Chamber to host installation dinner

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will not be having a general membership meeting in January due to the Chamber hosting the installation dinner this month every year. It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, at Hibiscus Hall, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, from 6pm to 9:30pm. There will also be an exciting silent auction with amazing prizes. Tickets are \$65/member and \$70/non-member. Reservations can be made by calling (670) 234-7150. (PR)

'Marianas-chan' application deadline extended to Jan. 6

The Marianas Visitors Authority's "Marianas-chan" (Marianas child) application deadline has been extended until 12pm, Jan. 6, 2017. Applicants must be 4-6 years old, reside in the Northern Mariana Islands and be a U.S. citizen. Interested contestants from Tinian and Rota are invited to submit an application with a 1-2 minute video of the contestant to info@mymarianas.com for call back to the Jan. 7, 2016, audition on Saipan. Applications are available at www.mymarianas.com. (MVA)

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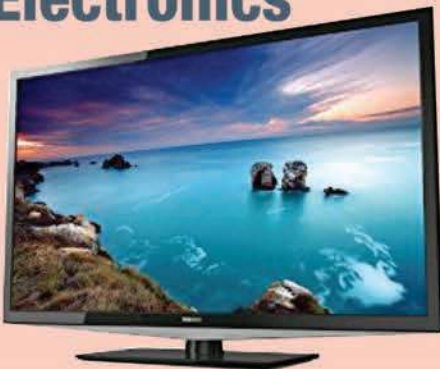


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JKPL Art Competition and Game Day

PHOTOS By ERWIN ENCINARES



Rownel Jody Coloma and his family pose with his submission to the JKPL literary art competition.



A group of children enjoys the free use of the JKPL's gaming console, a Playstation 4.



A group playing popular card games Yu-Gi-Oh and Magic the Gathering.



The donation box for the canned food drive of the JKPL, which was also held at the 25th anniversary of the library. Contents of the box would be donated to Karidat.



The top 3 art pieces for both the 12-14 and 15-17 divisions.



A group of young adults plays a popular card game known as Vanguard for Game Day. It was also held during the announcement of the literary art competition at JKPL.

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Conrad Bao poses with his submission to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's literary art competition.

FOR WISEMAN'S VACATED ASSOCIATE JUDGE POST

Torres waits for nominees' answer

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is hoping to finally name the replacement for former Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman within the week. Wiseman's post had been vacant for eight months now since he retired in May last year.

Only four judges remain on the bench led by Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, and associate judges Kenneth L. Govendo, Joseph N. Camacho, and Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio.

Torres said that he is only waiting for the nominee's reply on the offer to be elevated to the bench. "I've already asked the person and the answer was supposed to be last week. Hopefully this Friday."

He said the nominee could have decided to delay in making a decision because of the holiday break. He is hoping the person could finally give him an answer by Friday. "If not, then we have to move on and check another person."

Fourteen had shown interest in Wiseman's former post and submitted their respective credentials to the administration. It was narrowed down to four after reviewing each candidate

and consultations made with the CNMI Bar Association, lawyers, and other members of the community.

"Choosing Judge Wiseman's replacement is not an easy task. We have to know the candidates' background. Overall de-

meanor, personality, legal work, and prior cases are some of the guidelines that we set," said Torres in an earlier interview.

He is keeping the name to himself and declined to even give a hint of the candidate.

Article IV, Section IV of the

CNMI Constitution states that a "justice or judge shall be at least 35 years of age, a citizen or national of the United States, have resided in the Commonwealth for at least five years before appointment, never have been convicted of

a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude, and been a member of the Commonwealth bar for five years.

Section V states the CNMI Senate will confirm the governor's appointee and if confirmed the new judge will have a six-year term and a justice for eight years. The name of the judge or justice will then be placed on the ballot in the general election

where the people would vote "Yes" or "No" to retain him or her to the post for another six-year term for a judge and eight years for a justice.

Wiseman informed then governor Eloy S. Inos of his retirement, effective May 2016, as CNMI Superior Court associate judge last October. He was the longest serving Superior Court judge, being on the bench for 15 years.

HOUSE SINE DIE

Members of the 19th House of Representatives pose for a final group photo after their sine die session last Wednesday at the House Chamber of the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

JON PEREZ



Members of the Senate staff and Legislative Bureau pose for a group photo after the last session of 2016 at the Senate Chamber of the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

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For the second straight year, the Marianas High School JROTC won the island-wide Raider Competition against other JROTC teams from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

The MHS Raider team was included in an athletic competition within the JROTC schools in the CNMI. They participated in five events—push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, 2-mile run, and 1-mile gallon carry.

The winning team consists of Donald Pangelinan, Austin Aldan, Kevin Aldan, Alan Yu, Aries Gutierrez, Generou Arcilla, Mico Ucherbelau, Neldreyton Skerei, Samuel Borja, Kevin Hi, John Bautista, Kevin Zhen, Angelo Sion, Gee-syu Hahn, Daryl De Luna, Addie Fabiana, and Julia Malate

“They just want to better themselves from last year, our points this year were actually higher than last year by 30-40 points so they excelled and they actually bettered themselves from last year so they keep improving,” said Army instructor Sgt. First Class Anthony Crolla

Pangelinan said that being a Raider has many perks “for example the physical conditioning we provide is fun to most of the members and also healthy for everyone’s lifestyle as well as each member has a significant part to the team”

The Raiders Competition or “Raider” is a popular athletic competition held within the Junior ROTC programs. Raider competitions are de-

MHS JROTC repeats in Raider Competition



Marianas High School C/Capt. Donald Pangelinan, center, poses with the rest of the school’s JROTC team after winning the 2016 Raiders Competition.

signed for a small group of physically fit and mentally tough cadets to com-

pete in numerous outdoor activities

This year’s competition was held

in the CNMI and unlike last year it didn’t have schools competing from

the states, according to Crolla.

MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera expressed her gratitude to the team for winning.

“The Marianas High School JROTC has continued its legacy of excellence this year as shown in the most recent back to back win of the raider competition. It shows the effort, commitment, dedication and many hours of practice pays off and goes a long way.”

“The JROTC Battalion has worked extremely hard this year in an effort to meet and even exceed their goals. The Raider win is an example of how any group of dedicated students can achieve much if they work as a team and work hard. Congratulations to the Mighty JROTC Dolphins!” Cabrera added.

In a statement, Crolla said that he is proud of the team for winning again, “Keep excelling, I’m proud of you, you motivate me as an instructor and just keep doing your best”

“Winning for the second year in a row feels validating, we can now truly say we’re the best Raider team in the Marianas after winning and defending our title,” said Pangelinan. “Win or lose, no matter what, you will leave raiders with a sense of accomplishment.”

This is the second win for the MHS JROTC Raider team in this competition. Their first was in 2015. (*Mackenzie Perez*)

Arts festival gearing up for April event

The Flame Tree Arts Festival celebrates the rich art and cultural heritage of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and will take place on April 20-23, 2017.

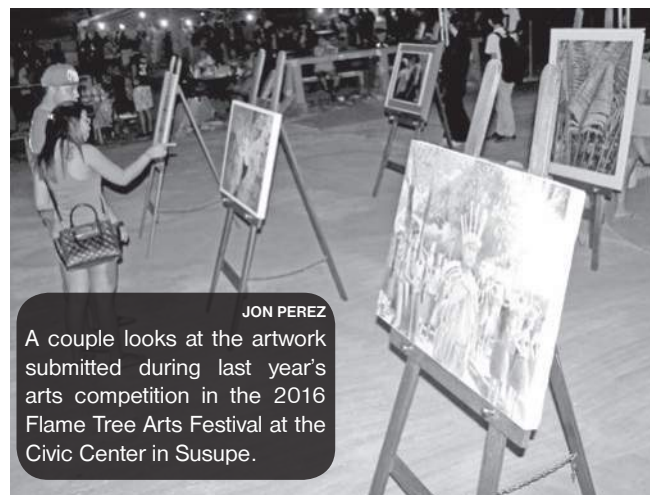
The flame tree is nearly the CNMI’s official tree and the festival will be held during the typical blossoming season of the flame tree flowers. Many flame trees were damaged by Typhoon Soudeler and did not make an appearance last

year but we are hopeful this year will bring an abundance of flowers.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, in conjunction with KKMP Foundation and KKMP Radio, are getting ready for the upcoming 2017 Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. It will provide booths for Rota, Tinian, Northern Islands, and delegation booths

for the Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Marshall Islands contingents.

Registration is now being accepted for the twenty food stalls, five indigenous food stands, 50 artists kiosks, and five school booths. The fee for registered artists is \$50 for a 10x20 tent space, food vendors will register for \$600 for a 20’x20’ space. Indigenous food stands will cost \$300. Schools will be ac-



A couple looks at the artwork submitted during last year’s arts competition in the 2016 Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Civic Center in Susupe.

corded space to display and sell their art pieces for free. Space will be on a first come, first served basis. Only art pieces and goods created in the CNMI and Micronesia will be allowed on the festival grounds; there will be no exemptions.

For more information visit www.flametreefestival.com, stop by KKMP Radio located at the Marianas Business Plaza (Nauru Building) Suite 203 or call 287-8145 for registration information. (*PR*)

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Sablan sworn in to 115th US Congress

FinCEN issues guidance on sharing SAR

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network issued guidance yesterday to confirm that, under the Bank Secrecy Act and its implementing regulations, a casino that has filed a Suspicious Activity Report may share the SAR, or any information that would reveal the existence of the SAR, with each office or other place of business located within the United States of either the casino itself or a parent or affiliate of the casino.

The guidance is available on <https://www.fincen.gov/resources>. (PR)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) took the oath of office along with 439 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday.

Sablan begins his fifth term as the representative of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in Congress.

Accompanying the congressman for a ceremonial photograph with House Speaker Paul Ryan at the U.S. Capitol were James Fleming, Edith Deleon Guerrero, Edz Villagomez, Regina Kautz, Bernard Cabrera, Andrea Sablan, Jude Marfil, Beberty Bacani, Edward Pangelinan, and Robert Schwalbach.

Sablan placed his hand upon the Bible first given to him for this purpose in 2009 by the Rev. Tomas A. Camacho, now-retired bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Accompanied by staff, constituents, and his wife Andrea, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) takes his oath of office in this ceremonial photo with House Speaker Paul Ryan at the U.S. Capitol.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 17-01

United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
Docket Clerk / Relief Courtroom Deputy
with additive duties in Procurement or Finance

Permanent, Full-Time Position Location: SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
Grade: CL-24 Step 2 \$35,840 to CL-25 Step 2, \$39,579 starting pay depending on qualifications, plus 13.7% COLA (salary and COLA stated at 2016 rates).
Promotion potential to CL-27.

Opening Date: Jan. 6, 2017 • CLOSING DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 12:00 noon

Position Overview:

Docket case information and managing the progression of cases to final disposition, in accordance with approved internal controls, procedures, and rules. Provide customer service to the bar and public, including records retrieval and processing payments. Perform electronic court recording, calendaring, attending and logging court proceedings, and processing orders. Assist with video teleconferencing, audio conferencing and electronic evidence presentation systems. Depending on applicant background and court needs, may be assigned additional duties as Procurement Assistant or Financial Assistant. Complete position description is available upon request, or via Internet at <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>. This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave and holidays, health insurance, life insurance and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:

High School Graduate with two years of general work experience, plus one or more years of specialized experience in a court, law office or regulatory occupation, and significant additional training or experience in procurement, accounting, budgeting or finance. Additional preference will be given for college graduation and work experience in a court or legal environment. Applicants should demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing), and have skill in typing, use of word processors and spreadsheets, and using automated systems. Additional preference will be given for skill in using automated case management systems.

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:

Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are subject to a background investigation and suitability determination, and updated background investigations every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov> or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Deadline for receipt of applications at the Clerk of Court office in Saipan is Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 12:00 noon.

Deliver signed applications to:
Clerk of Court

United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan

Or, email signed applications to:
HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW/FHWA-17-IFB-001

ROAD MARKING & SIGNAGE UPGRADE ROUTE 21, ROUTE 24-EAST & ROUTE 27, TINIAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Road Marking & Signage Upgrade Route 21, Route 24-East & Route 27, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available in Electronic Files on January 6, 2017 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **January 24, 2017 10:00 a.m. local time** at Mayor Office, Tinian. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 7, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-17-IFB-001". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 10, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 10, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 10, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **February 21, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 24, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on February 10, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 4

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump should resist those who would gut net-neutrality rules

Imagine how President-elect Donald Trump would feel if his late-night tweets were bumped to a slow lane of the internet to make way for “Saturday Night Live” broadcasts making fun of him.

Fortunately for Trump, there are rules in place to ensure fair treatment for the delivery of content.

This “net-neutrality” policy is intended to prevent internet access providers from discriminating against content, or favoring content or services they prefer.

Comcast, for instance, cannot throttle a social-media application and prioritize streaming of “Saturday Night Live” shows produced by the NBC network it owns.

The Federal Communications Commission adopted these rules in 2015, when it was controlled by Democrats. But the FCC actually began developing net-neutrality policy a decade earlier, when it was controlled by Republicans.

Ensuring a level playing field online, and access to all viewpoints, is a priority for Americans of all parties.

An astounding 3.7 million people engaged and commented in 2014 when the FCC was developing its net-neutrality rules. Americans favored the rules by a wide margin.

Yet there are strong indications that Trump might cave to industry pressure and allow these rules to be gutted.

Trump chose a Verizon consultant and prominent net-neutrality opponent to lead his transition team choosing staff for the FCC. Another member of Trump’s transition team has proposed dismantling the entire agency.

Meanwhile, the FCC’s two Republican commissioners are gleefully predicting policy reversals.

There couldn’t be a worse time to enable throttling and manipulation of content delivery.

America and its democracy depend on citizens being well-informed by freely flowing information.

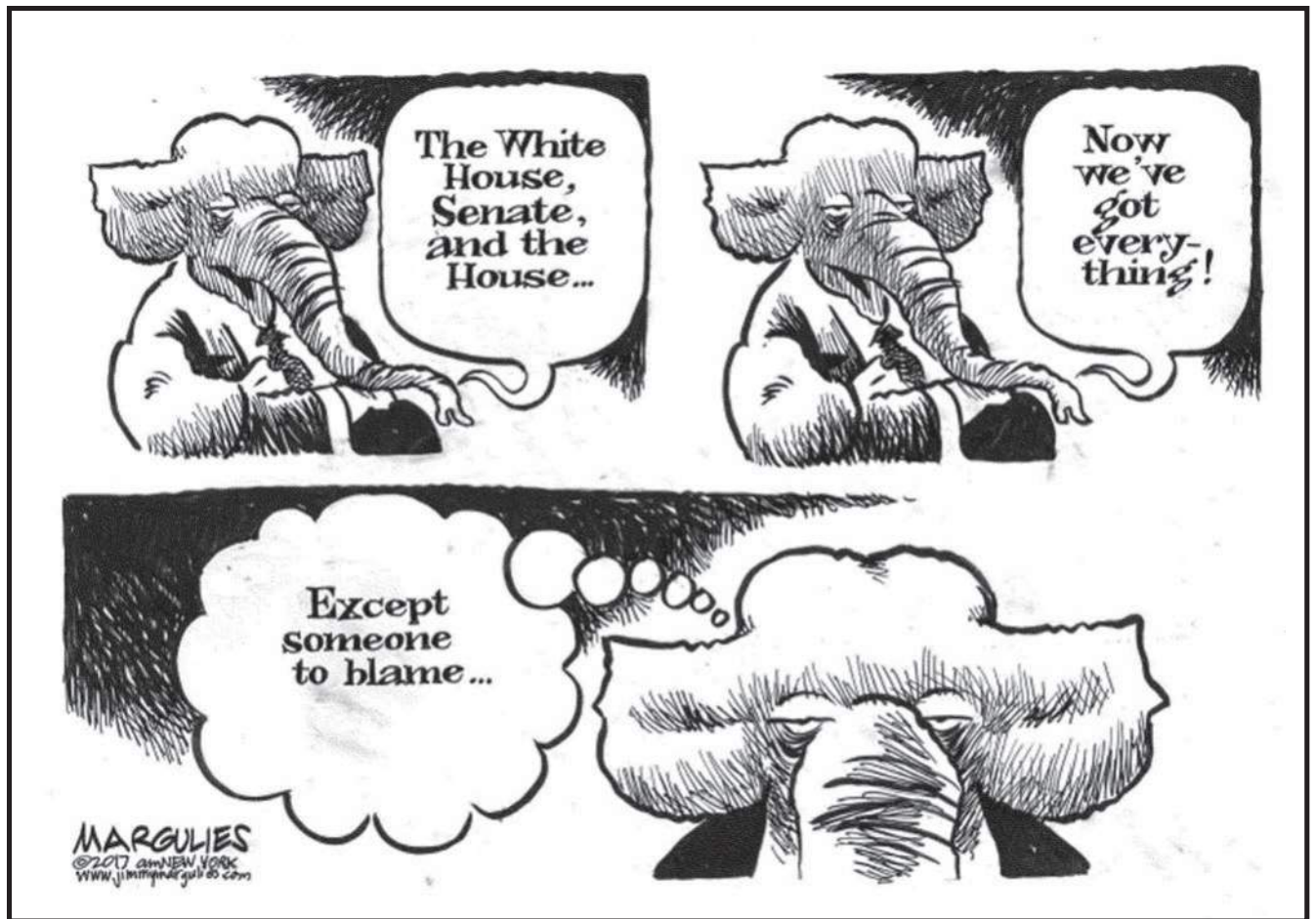
Traditional media that strive to objectively inform citizens are shrinking and under assault from those who reject common understanding in favor of the alternate realities of partisan propaganda. Losing equal access to consumers via the internet — the shared, universal platform for content delivery nowadays — could be the last straw.

Other industries depend on the open internet, including online service providers that have become some of America’s biggest successes. Net-neutrality rules support this font of innovation by protecting new companies — future Microsofts, Googles and Amazon.coms — from being stifled by entrenched players.

Companies of all sorts now depend on the internet to operate, using cloud software. This affirms that the network has truly become an essential utility. Light-touch regulation like the FCC’s net-neutrality policy is appropriate for such utilities, to ensure service is reliable for all users, broadly accessible and nondiscriminatory.

The FCC and its net-neutrality policies are also a bulwark against the dangers of media and telecommunications con-

See TRUMP on Next Page



2017: What will it be?

Something has come up as a real challenge for the NMI trumpeted in the Bloomberg story, headlined: “\$7 Billion Saipan Casino’s Future May Be At Risk.”

It says there’s disagreement over higher premium being sought by investors that Imperial Pacific refuses to accept.

Thus, “a bond offering that gaming operator Imperial Pacific International Holdings, Ltd. planned to use to fund construction of a new casino on the remote Pacific island of Saipan has been put on hold.”

“With the bond off the table for now, Imperial Pacific loses a key source of financing for its casino project, ultimately envisioned to cost \$7 billion and encompasses 20 six-star hotels and 11 casinos,” the story related.

“Last month, Moody’s Investors Service assigned Imperial Pacific a B2 credit rating five levels below investment grade, and put it under review for a possible downgrade because of the delay in selling bonds to help finance the project.

“Moody’s said its review will focus on the company’s ‘ability to secure sufficient long-term funding’ as well as the ‘management of money laundering risk to ensure that its gaming business in Saipan is sustainable.’”

The setback of the bond offering being taken off the table is concerning in the sense that it places completion of the \$7 billion integrated resort questionable. China has just decided to slow down any further bond loan. What then is the future of the project here?

Moreover, Paul Schmelzing, a PhD candidate at Harvard University and a visiting scholar at the Bank of England, said if the latest bond market bubble bursts, it would be worse than in 1994 when global bonds suffered the biggest annual loss record.

“The current bond market is facing the ‘perfect storm’ of potential steepening of the bond yield curve, monetary policy tightening, and a multi-year period of sustained losses due to a “structural” return of inflation resembling that of 1967, he said. Last quarter was the worst for government bonds since 1987, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

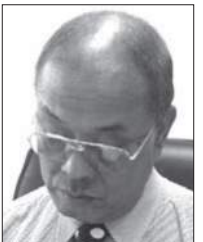
It’s an issue Capital Hill must carefully tread as it amends additional allocation precipitously for certain programs on revenue hailing from the lone gaming industry. This source of fund is highly volatile and hardly sturdy either. A lot has happened recently to Asia’s largest economy that has spooked investors.

Meanwhile, I quiz which source is telling the truth in terms of taxes BSI should be paying the NMI. Isn’t the NMI entitled to a fair share of the income beyond token fees? Whose figure is correct? I would have to trust Bloomberg for the credibility of its intelligence and investigative teams.

Feds intervention: The growing dissatisfaction and distrust in our governmental institutions has gone past the simmering level.

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



The multitude is pleading: can the feds intervene and help us restore our democratic institutions?

The query jolted my senses after seeing shadowy money placed into the deep pockets of politicians here for years. Some had to do time in monkey houses while others take shelter silently collecting their loot for favors rendered business friends with subtlety in recent past. Connect the dots and you’d see exactly the map I’ve seen over the years.

Recently, I was quizzed if I had received any form of payment for a certain public land lease I had revoked when lessee failed to meet various conditions. Yes, I saw a check that was cashed by appointed public officials in the thousands of dollars. And some are still in office. Despicably unbelievable!

Even the world’s top management guru related that though you may be at the pinnacle of your career, the goal is about “others” or the people below you. In other words, whether you’re appointed or elected, you’re not there for yourself but “others.” I’ve never lost sight of this in all 23 years of active government service!

Quitugua claim: The order by the NMI Supreme Court that the lower court institutes payment of the Quitugua land in As Teo is dead wrong! I was secretary of DPL when we reviewed the issue thoroughly.

I had a survey done of the public in the area. It was found that half of the Quitugua house is in public land. I asked that they surrender a portion of the road for public access. In doing so, they keep the family house intact. It’s apparent the family refuses to do so going after money and public land at the expense of indigenous landowners and taxpayers!

Is DPL complicit to this deceitful scheme? If it has decision beyond what I found out as a set of facts, it would be interesting to see the basis of any subsequent change of mind. I will sue if this dual robbery isn’t stopped dead on its track. Judicial decision in this case turns justice on its face. Since when is land grabbing doubled down by enrichment from taxpayers’ contribution legal?

See 2017 on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sessions will have to deal with Comey's FBI

WASHINGTON — If the Senate confirms one of its own, Alabama's Jeff Sessions, as the new attorney general, which appears likely, one of his first orders of business should be dealing with an FBI that seems under its current director to be growing more independent of the Justice Department.

James Comey's outrageous disregard for the sanctity of the presidential election is one of the more urgent issues facing not only the next attorney general but also Trump, even if Comey's actions gave our then-faltering president-elect a significant boost just before Election Day. Hillary Clinton has put much of the blame for her defeat on that nearly unprecedented event.

If anyone needs his or her memory refreshed, the bureau's director, after closing an investigation into Clinton's email accounts on grounds there was no criminal activity, just extreme carelessness, took it on himself to reopen the volatile matter a few days before the election, ignoring the pleas of Justice attorneys.

Comey rushed to the decision to notify Congress that new evidence might have surfaced in the email accounts of Clinton's top State Department assistant, Huma Abedin, whose husband, Anthony Weiner, was being investigated. The problem was that no one knew whether there was evidence to support his warning. Turns out, there wasn't, and just three days before Americans streamed to the polls in what would be one of the most dramatic upsets in history, he conceded that the evidence didn't exist. Too late. The "put her in jail crowd," including Trump, had made the most of things.

It was an egregious act perhaps unlike anything seen in a previous presidential election, and an equal share of the blame belongs to Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who despite the best efforts of her staff lawyers to dissuade Comey from making his initial announcement, failed to use her authority to stop it. It was a clear abdication of her responsibility, setting the stage for the crisis we now face in dealing with not only the roguish actions of a director but what his example means for the bureau itself.

Not even J. Edgar Hoover, the autocratic father of the modern FBI, would have dared to violate protocol so blatantly and openly. Although his relationship with the Justice Department and various presidents was at times edgy, it was always clear that his agency had its limits.

TRUMP

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solidation.

The handful of companies connecting most Americans to the internet are buying up media companies, increasing chances they'll manipulate access to benefit their content.

Comcast bought NBC, AT&T bought Time Warner and Verizon is buying Yahoo. All have chafed against net-neutrality rules and tested limits, experimenting with schemes to provide discounted, special access to preferred media.

Trump is particularly knowledgeable about the value and influence of the media. His family has reportedly even considered launching a Trump TV network.

He should be skeptical of telecom lobbyists whispering in his ear and consider what's at stake.

Then he might realize what a shame it would be if net-neutrality rules were gutted, and entrepreneurs, job-creators and the media lost their best hope of ensuring fair treatment from America's information gatekeepers.

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2017

From Page 14

Cynicism: This and next year would be difficult for republicans to justify against a steadily mounting cynical view from the multitude. The costs of family obligations continue to increase as the hill distract employees with a five percent wage increase limited to public sector employees.

But this would easily lose its luster when a new increase in utility bills hits families sometime soon, if not, already. What about employees in private industries? Are their family needs a strange contraption immune from the cost of living? Why are their fate easily overlooked by politicians? Are they not attached to the productive sector? So the productive sector is punished while rewarding drone public sector employees?

While he opposed the internment of Japanese Americans at the beginning of World War II and other White House actions, Hoover kept his fences mended in the White House, Justice Department and Congress, many of whose members were literally afraid of him. To have stepped over the line into an election, at least openly, was not on his agenda. He understood what the risk of doing so might mean politically to the bureau's fortunes.

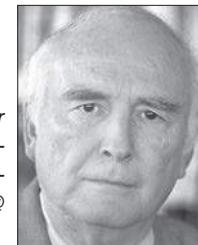
The first mistake that Lynch committed was a "friendly" airport runway meeting with former president Bill Clinton while the investigation of his wife's use of her private emails for sensitive government business was underway. Lynch claimed it was just an exchange of pleasantries but later admitted the mere appearance of possible impropriety did put her in an awkward position.

The second mistake was allowing Comey to make the announcement that he was recommending no action in the Hillary Clinton matter while simultaneously criticizing her for carelessness, which almost seemed to contradict his decision. Finally, of course, was the debacle on the eve of the election.

Whatever her reasoning — and it seems clear she was concerned about allegations that, as a Democrat, she could be accused of covering for her party's candidate — the fact is those shouting about jailing Clinton already thought that. It was Lynch's reluctance to step in that let Comey's action stand without evidence of cause for nine days and tipped the undecideds

By **DAN K. THOMASSON**

Tribune News Service



Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers. Readers may send him email at thomassondan@aol.com.

against Clinton.

This should be a cautionary tale for the president-elect with his international ties and the potential conflicts of interest in his domestic business dealings. An overzealous former prosecutor running a powerful bureau that increasingly sees itself above influence might make the White House nervous. What goes around can come around.

Lynch was obviously not up to being attorney general, and we will wait eagerly to see if Sessions is. It probably is too much to ask for the Republicans in Congress to conduct proper oversight in this case.

They should hope for the best, and the best isn't ignoring the situation.

The first Tuesday of the year

You didn't ask me how things went on Tuesday. I'm going to tell you anyway.

On Tuesday, I called a pal and asked if he wanted to go to lunch. "Not today," he said, "I have to go to the gym." Gym? This guy drives the 300-yard distance from his house to the sari-sari store. And that's only after letting his car idle in the driveway for 10 minutes so the aircon will cold-soak the interior and he won't break a sweat.

Yes, some people really are spoiled. Me, I only use a 5-minute idle; everybody knows that's sufficient, at least when it's not summertime.

Anyway, I said goodbye and called a second friend. "Dude, you wanna' get some pizza?" I asked. "Ah, pizza, no can do," he said, "I'm having salad for lunch today."

"You? Salad?" "Yes, me. Salad. It's organically-raised, low-carb, natural-herbal, fiber-rich salad topped with Mediterranean kale and free-range goat cheese."

"Aren't you the same guy who ate meatball sandwiches for breakfast every single day in October?"

"True enough," he admitted. "But that was last year." Well, good for last year, I thought, but this isn't improving the lunch situation at all. I said goodbye.

Since when did arranging lunch become some sort of moon shot? What's wrong with everyone?

I figured I should consult an expert in the field. So I called Sparky. True, he's not close enough to meet for lunch. He lives far away in a single-wide trailer in the remote bayou. The few strangers dumb enough to venture out there usually disappear, which is just fine with Sparky. When it comes to explaining what in the heck is wrong with everyone, he is the go-to guy.

So I explained the situation to him. "What's kale?" he asked. "I dunno," I said. "Some kind of fish, probably." "Sounds about right," he said. "Anyway, as for your situation out there, don't worry about it. Your pals aren't snubbing you. They've just got a case of New Year Syndrome."

"Syndrome? Sounds serious." "No, it ain't serious at all. It's a psychological thing. A new year means a blank calendar, sort of like getting a fresh start, and some people want to shed bad habits and pick up some good ones."

"You mean, good habits like going to the gym?" I asked. "Right. Or eating kalefish salad."

I heaved a heavy sigh. "In that case, I guess I'm condemned to eating lunch alone for the rest of my life."

"Relax," said Sparky. "This condition is only temporary. In a few weeks everybody will be back to normal."

"Are you sure?" "You can bet on it. Before you know it, everyone's gym clothes

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

will go into the hamper and will somehow vanish during the laundry cycle. The running shoes will go into the closet and the zoris will come back out. The vegetables in the fridge will yield their space to real food, like, you know, hot dogs and pork chops."

"Pizza, too?" "Yes, pizza, too," he said with an air of reassurance.

He then built a description of how everything would return to normal as the shine wore off of the new year. Granola bars would fade away from jacket pockets and would be replaced by cans of Skoal and Copenhagen. Car ashtrays would once again be filled with ashes. The neatly-creased Dockers purchased in December would, by mid-February, be buried at the bottom of the drawer while the faded old 501s were on top again.

"Mark my words," Sparky concluded, "it'll be pizza and meatballs by March, and jeans and flip-flops in time for Easter mass. Then you'll know that everything's back to normal."

"Thanks, Sparky. I feel a lot better now." "Glad to hear it. But, hey, ol' buddy, I've got to get going now."

I glanced at my watch. "Of course! It's just hitting happy hour in your time zone, right?"

"Yep," said Sparky. "Are you going to the veteran's club as usual?"

"No time for that," Sparky said. "I'm late to yoga class." Then he hung up.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Things are coming together

Since the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument was declared 8 years ago, the pace of developing the monument has been slow and frustrating to many people, especially to me. But over the last several months there have been several positive developments regarding the monument.

The Friends of the Marianas Trench have engaged in a public outreach effort the last three months by talking to government of-

See **THINGS** on Page 17

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy saturday.

▲88° ▼79°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲89° ▼79°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the upper 70s.

▲88° ▼79°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

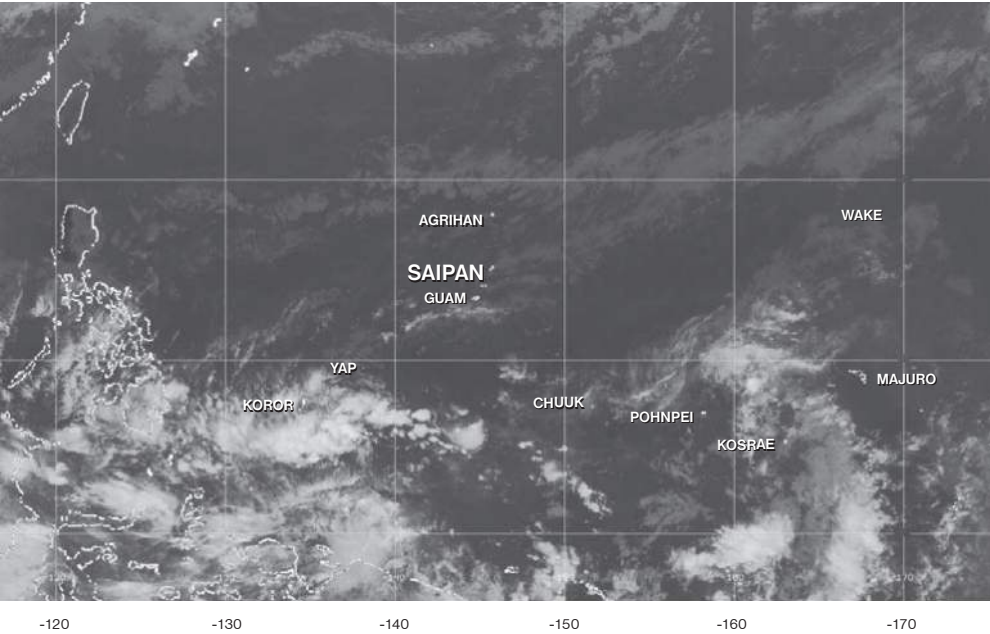
▲88° ▼79°

TUESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:01 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows scattered light showers moving through the Marianas waters. These are associated with a shear line currently near Rota. The VAD wind profile reveals northeast winds of 7 to 12 knots just off the surface which increase to between 13 and 18 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air. Above this the winds turn toward the east-southeast and decrease a bit.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲		
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	79 / 86 °F
Palau	Heavy rain	77 / 85 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	80 / 84 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	80 / 84 °F
Pohnpei	Heavy rain	78 / 83 °F
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	82 / 85 °F
Majuro	Heavy rain	81 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲		
Auckland	Mostly sunny	53 / 68 °F
Beijing	Morning clouds	25 / 40 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	66 / 74 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	62 / 76 °F
London	Morning clouds	32 / 43 °F
Los Angeles	Overcast	54 / 62 °F
Manila	Mostly sunny	75 / 87 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	63 / 89 °F
Miami	Mostly sunny	62 / 79 °F
New York	Morning clouds	38 / 51 °F
Osaka	High level clouds	35 / 50 °F
Paris	High level clouds	26 / 34 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	45 / 53 °F
Rome	Morning clouds	27 / 37 °F
Salem	Mostly sunny	15 / 32 °F
San Francisco	Partly sunny	39 / 51 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	29 / 49 °F
Tokyo	High level clouds	34 / 46 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	29 / 36 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
12:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.42 Feet
7:08 AM	LOW TIDE	0.45 Feet
1:49 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.97 Feet
8:48 PM	LOW TIDE	0.48 Feet

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:08 AM	12:27 PM
Saturday	-	1:04 AM	1:14 PM
Sunday	-	2:02 AM	2:04 PM
Monday	-	3:02 AM	2:57 PM
Tuesday	-	4:04 AM	3:54 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Mysterious trailers parked in San Jose



MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Trailer vans parked in front of Regal Theatres in San Jose are shown here in this photo.

Some 100 units of trailer vans have been seen parked in front of Regal Theatres as early as November of last-year, without anyone knowing their purpose.

Some speculations are circulating around the community over the possibility of them being used as housing for workers of an upcoming hotel on island.

Joeten Group of Companies

was tasked with the transportation of the vehicles from the shipyard and were willing to hold them in a clearing of land they own that sits right in front of Regal Theatres in San Jose.

Upon further investigation, the trailers were discovered to be in ownership by Saipan Ocean View Hotel, but without a single person to discuss

specifics with.

“The person who is in charge of the project is not here,” said one of the workers from the hotel.

No specific name or time of arrival was given. One worker guarding the said vans mentioned that, as of now, Saipan Ocean View Hotel has no specific use for the trailers. *(Michael T. Santos)*

66 confirmed dengue cases in Vanuatu

Vanuatu’s Ministry of Health has confirmed there were 66 confirmed cases of dengue fever at the end of December.

A statement from the ministry of health said there were 359 suspected cases and only 66 were confirmed to be positive.

It said only six out of the 66 infected people were admit-

ted to the Vila central hospital while the rest were taken care of at home.

The health ministry is encouraging the public to make every effort to destroy mosquito breeding sites and to visit the nearest health centre if there are signs of dengue fever, such as high fever, severe abdominal pain, rash, persis-

tent vomiting or bleeding.

Symptoms of dengue can appear between four and seven days after a mosquito bite.

(Radio New Zealand)

THINGS

From Page 15

fices and talking to our leaders about these things. Here is a list of the things we discussed, along with updates of how our monument is progressing.

■ There has been increased global interest in the Marianas Trench. In the last 12 months, scientific expeditions led by the Chinese government, U.S. government, and private foundations have used remotely operated vehicles to explore the depths of our surrounding water.

■ Many new discoveries have been made in our waters, including species new to science.

■ The submerged lands deal that was promised by the Bush Administration to Governor Fitial with the declaration of the monument is complete. Department of Interior Secretary Jewell and Governor Torres signed an agreement last month.

■ The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has hired staff to manage the monument.

■ NOAA Fisheries is close to hiring staff to help manage the monument.

■ A draft management plan will be released in the com-

ing months for public review. This will be one of the final steps before active management begins.

■ Governor Torres and U.S. Delegate Kilili have written to President Obama about bringing additional educational and research funds to the Northern Marianas using the NOAA sanctuary program.

■ The Pew Charitable Trusts helped us with the paperwork to start a sanctuary process here.

■ Nearly every elected official has written to the Obama Administration to ask for the sanctuary program to come to the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Marianas Trench has been nominated as a new UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of only nine places in the United States being currently considered for such an honor. I know that there is a perception that nothing is happening with the monument, but the opposite is actually true, and we’re just getting started. You started hearing a lot more about the Marianas Trench in 2016, and now I predict you will hear about it a lot more.

Ignacio Cabrera
/ Agag



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-17-010

SAIPAN SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe Village. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 260 LF of existing 10-inch ACP, ± 2200 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, and ± 250 LF of existing 6-inch ACP, existing sewer manhole rehabilitation, installation of new concrete sewer manhole, 4-inch and 6-inch service lateral connections, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-17-010, Saipan Sewer Line Replacement Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 02, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Division of Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. 664-8300 • Fax No. 664-8315 As of January 6, 2017



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Cai Lingli Dba. Proper Grand	11/3/2016 SMS-2017-X-010	Sugar King Hotel & Dormitory	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing 01/10/2016
2. Cai Lingli Dba. Proper Grand	10/14/2016 SMS-2017-X-003	Chalan Laulau Dormitories	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing 01/10/2016
3. Imperial Pacific International	11/14/2016 SS-2017-X-016	Habitat Restoration & Conservation Plan	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review -Extended*
4. United Front Co., LTD. Dba. Super Fish	12/23/2016 SLRm-2003-X-165	Marine Sports Activities	Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 12/28/2016
5. Saipan Diving World. Inc.	12/23/2016 SLRm-2014-X-065	Marine Sports Activities	Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 12/28/2016
6. Hayden Corporation	12/27/2016 SWm-2017-X-021	Staging	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
7. Marianas Enterprise Limited	12/30/2016 SWm-2017-X-022	Staging	Tanapag, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
8. Sakura CNMI Corporation Dba. Sakura Marine Sports	12/23/2016 SLRm-2009-X-072	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal- Under Review
9. Sakura CNMI Corporation Dba. Sakura Marine Sports	12/23/2016 SLRm-2009-087	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal- Under Review
10. Sakura CNMI Corporation Dba. Sakura Marine Sports	12/30/2016 SLRm-2010-X-015	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal- Under Review
11. Island Marine Sports	12/30/2016 SLRm-99-X-279	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal- Under Review
12. CNMI Commonwealth Ports Authority	12/16/2016 SP-2017-X-023	Floating Dock Extension	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 01/03/2017
13. Kensington Aqua Park	12/28/2016 SLR-2017-X-024	Aqua Park	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Bordallo receives Navy Distinguished Public Service Award

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued yesterday the following statement on receiving the Department of the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award.

The award is the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Secretary of the Navy. The award was presented by Rear Adm. Craig Faller, chief of Legislative Affairs, on behalf of Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

"The Navy and Marine Corps have long histories on Guam, and they have been



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) is presented with the Department of the Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award.

important partners in our community. I have been proud to support our sailors and Marines during my time in Congress, and I thank them for their incredible service to our nation," said Bordallo. "I am grateful to the Navy and Secretary Mabus for this award. I look forward to working with the Navy and all our services to address their critical readiness issues during the 115th Congress."

Bordallo's award citation

reads: "For exceptional service to the Department of the Navy as a member of Congress and the House Armed Services Committee. Congresswoman Bordallo's dedicated service to our sailors and Marines ensured they were provided the resources necessary to support and defend the nation's interests around the globe. Her strong leadership as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Readiness and member of the Subcommittee on Seapower guaranteed the highest levels of sustainability for our combat forces and ensured the Navy-Marine Corps team was the most capable force in history." (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007,
Saipan, MP 96950-1304

DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp

Ralph D.L.G. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lt. Governor

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Ray S. Magsa
Director, DEQ

Frances A. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE

The Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality (BECQ) would like to inform the general public that **BECQ will be CLOSED on January 12 (Thursday) & January 13 (Friday), 2017** for a Professional Development Workshop.

As such, only the BECQ ADMIN (Room 101) will be open to accept complete submission of applications. Payments can be made at the CNMI Treasury Office or the CNMI Superior Court.

Regular office hours will resume back on January 17 (Tuesday), 2017.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Edrina Vera Teregyo Rabauliman
P.O. Box 501606 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 287-8555

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE)	FCD GU
GUARDIANSHIP OF)	CIVIL ACTION
)	NO. 16-0644
Juan Rangamar Rabauliman)	
An Incompetent)	NOTICE OF
)	HEARING
By)	
Edrina Vera Teregyo)	
Rabauliman)	
Petitioner)	

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Edrina Rabauliman, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable court at Guam Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Kenneth L. Govendo on the 20th of January, 2017 at 9:00 am or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,)	Civil Action
)	No. 16-0100R
vs.)	SUMMONS
MURPHY P. REYES, Defendant.)	

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, MURPHY P. REYES:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within **Twenty (20) Days** after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this the 25 day of May, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TERMINAL ROOF LEAK REPAIRS
PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-003-13**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for roof leak repairs at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Terminal, Project No. CPA-RA-003-13, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 6, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
- CM experience related to airport projects – 30 points;
- Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the local and federal regulations and requirements – 15 points;
- The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
- Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Acting Executive Director

Date: December 12, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
FOR CAVITY REPAIRS AT THE SAIPAN HARBOR
Project No. CPA-SS-001-17**

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Engineering Design Services for cavity repairs at the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project Number CPA-SS-001-17.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 20, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Overall engineering design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 20 points.
- Engineering design experience related to seaport/harbor projects – 40 points;
- Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – 15 points.
- The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of engineering design work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
- Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date: January 5, 2017

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO. ITB17-DPW/SWMD-067

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "H" VEHICLE – 4X2 PICK-UP TRUCK (4 DOORS, ACCESS OR CREW CAB) WITH ALUMINUM FLAT BED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB17-OMB-070

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) LAPTOPS AND TWO (2) DESKTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Business

Macy’s to close stores, cut jobs amid weak sales

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Macy’s says it is eliminating more than 10,000 jobs and plans to move forward with 68 store closures after a disappointing holiday shopping season. The department store chain also lowered its full-year

earnings forecast. The retailer said Wednesday that sales at its established stores fell 2.1 percent in November and December compared to the same period last year. Macy’s Inc. pointed to changing consumer behavior and said its performance reflects the challenges

that are facing much of the retail industry. As if to underscore that point, Kohl’s Corp. also reported disappointing holiday shopping numbers Wednesday. Macy’s said the 68 store closures, which span the nation, are part of the 100 closings it announced in August. Of the 68, three were closed by the middle of 2016, 63 will close in the spring and two will be closed by the middle of 2017. Some employees may be offered positions at nearby stores, but Macy’s estimates that 3,900 employees will be affected by the closures. Macy’s also said it plans

to restructure parts of its business and sell some properties. This will lead to the reduction of 6,200 jobs. The moves are estimated to save \$550 million annually. The company, which has been under pressure from investors to sell some of its valuable real estate, is selling or has sold three locations. It is leasing the properties back and will keep operating those stores. Overall, Macy’s said, the job reductions represent about 7 percent of its workforce. The company, which owns the Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s brands, has been struggling with declining traffic in its stores, where the bulk of its business is still conducted.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tillerson leaving Exxon with \$180 million retirement package
NEW YORK (AP)—Rex Tillerson will get a \$180 million retirement package from Exxon Mobil Corp. if he is confirmed as President-elect Donald Trump’s secretary of state. Tillerson will give up more than 2 million Exxon shares he would have received over the next 10 years. In exchange, the company will make a cash payment equal to the value of those

shares to a trust to be overseen by a third party. Exxon said Wednesday that Tillerson has already promised the State Department that he will sell another 611,000 shares he currently owns, worth about \$55 million at Wednesday’s price, if confirmed. His Senate confirmation hearing begins next week. Tillerson’s selection raised potential conflict-of-interest issues because Exxon has business interests around the globe, including Russia. Putting his retirement nest egg into a trust

is intended to ease concerns that Tillerson could make decisions as secretary of state that would financially help himself or his former associates. **US auto sales hit a record 17.55M in 2016, led by SUVs**
DETROIT (AP)—U.S. consumers bought a record number of new cars and trucks in 2016. A repeat performance in 2017 could be a tall order. Low gas prices, rising employment and low interest rates kept buyers

coming to car dealerships last year. There was also the lure of new technology—such as backup cameras, automatic emergency braking and Apple CarPlay—and new vehicles like the Chrysler Pacifica minivan, the Honda Civic and the all-electric Chevrolet Bolt. U.S. vehicle sales totaled 17.55 million, beating the previous year’s record of 17.47 million, according to Autodata Corp. It was the seventh consecutive year of year-over-year sales gains, an unprecedented string, said Tom

Libby, an analyst with the consulting firm IHS Markit. **Bluefin tuna goes for \$632,000 in 1st Tsukiji auction of ‘17**
TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese sushi chain boss has bid a winning 74.2 million yen (\$632,000) for a 212 kilogram (466 pound) bluefin tuna in what may be the last auction at the current site of Tokyo’s Tsukiji market. The winning bid Thursday for the prized but imperiled species was the second highest ever after a record 155.4 million yen bid in 2013. Kiyomura Corp. owner Kiyoshi Kimura posed after the predawn New Year auction with the gleaming, man-sized fish, which was caught off the coast of northern Japan’s Aomori prefecture. He often wins the annual auction. Last year’s New Year auction was supposed to be the last at Tsukiji’s current location. The shift to a new facility on Tokyo Bay was delayed due to soil contamination at the former gas plant site.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB 17-DCCA/DYS-073 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “I” VEHICLE AND A 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK 4 DOORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DCCA/DYS-074 (CIF-ROTA)

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “I” VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DCCA/DYS-075 (CIF TINIAN)

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “I” VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DCCA/NAP-072

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 30, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “I” VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, N.A.P. DIVISION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DLNR/DFW-063

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

“BOAT CHARTER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPW/ASD-068

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF A CLASS “H” VEHICLE – 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4 FULL DOORS) WITH CAMPER SHELL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 17-DPW/BSC-069

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDING SAFETY CODE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. ITB 17-DPS-065 (CIF-TINIAN)

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS “F” VEHICLES – 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK (FOUR (4) FULL DOORS) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, TINIAN BRANCH”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/S/ JUAN E. SANTOS, JR.
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TINIAN DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP 17-BECQ/DCRM-064

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 23, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TO DESIGN AND ADMINISTER A CNMI MAJOR SITING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL – DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT”

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 23, 2016** BY EMAIL REQUEST TO erinderrington@becq.gov.mp. **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO erinderrington@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JANUARY 11, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAILMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Nation

Obama, Pence harden 'Obamacare' battle lines at Capitol

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hardening battle lines for the brawl to come, President Barack Obama urged congressional Democrats to “look out for the American people” in defending his legacy health care overhaul, while Vice President-elect Mike Pence stood firm Wednesday in telling Republicans that dismantling “Obamacare” is No. 1 on Donald Trump’s list.

“We’re going to be in the promise-keeping business,” Pence declared at two separate Capitol news conferences. Just 16 days before Trump takes over the Oval Office, he said repealing and replacing Obama’s law will be the president-elect’s “first order of business.”

“The American people voted decisively for a better future for health care in this country, and we are determined to give them that,” Pence said.

Outnumbered in the new Congress, Democrats didn’t sound confident in stopping the Republicans cold but signaled they wouldn’t make the GOP’s job any easier. New Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said that if the Republicans do scuttle the health care law, they will have to come up with a replacement plan before Democrats consider whether to help them revamp the system.

That adds pressure on Republicans, who for years have



President Barack Obama, joined by, from second from left, Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Fla., Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer of N.Y., and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of Calif. arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, to meet with members of Congress to discuss his signature healthcare law.

battled among themselves over what a new law would look like, including how to finance its programs and whether to keep Obama’s expansion of Medicaid for more lower-income people.

“They’re repealing, we’re not. It’s their obligation to come up with a replacement,” Schumer said, a sentiment he said he believed Democrats shared unanimously.

Obama and Pence held dueling strategy sessions with lawmakers at the Capitol as the new Republican-led Congress commenced its drive to dissolve the health care statute. The 2010 overhaul, which has extended coverage to 20 million people and reshaped

the nation’s \$3 trillion-a-year health care system, has long stood as one of Obama’s proudest triumphs and the ascendant GOP’s top target for extinction.

“Despite the negativity you have a big chunk of the country that wants this thing to succeed,” Obama told Democrats, according to an aide who attended Wednesday’s session.

The two sides traded insults through the day.

“Don’t let the Schumer clowns out of this web,” Trump wrote on Twitter.

Said Schumer: “The Republican plan to cut health care wouldn’t make America great again, it would make America sick again.”

Church gunman insists to jury that he is not mentally ill

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Dylann Roof spoke Wednesday for the first time to the jurors who will decide whether he should be executed for fatally shooting nine black parishioners during a Bible study, insisting that he is not mentally ill and forgoing a chance to plead for his life.

The soft-spoken 22-year-old white man told the jury that he was not trying to keep any secrets from them. He did not offer remorse or seek forgiveness or ask them to spare him from a lethal injection.

“My opening statement is going to seem a little bit out of place,” Roof said calmly as he delivered the brief remarks at a podium, occasionally glancing at notes. “I am not going to lie to you. ... Other than the fact that I trust people that I shouldn’t and the fact that I’m probably better at constantly embarrassing myself than anyone who’s ever existed, there’s nothing wrong with me psychologically.”

Shortly before Roof’s statement, prosecutors presented a

jailhouse journal in which he wrote that he did not regret the massacre or “shed a tear” for the dead.

Roof’s attorneys have indicated that he chose to represent himself during the sentencing phase of his trial because he was worried his legal team might present embarrassing evidence about himself or his family. As early as last summer, they said they planned to introduce evidence that Roof suffers from mental illness, and they hinted at that idea again during closing arguments of the trial’s guilt-or-innocence stage.

“I would ask you to forget it,” Roof told jurors, referring to what his lawyers said then.

Prosecutors said Roof deserves the death penalty because he painstakingly chose to target vulnerable people at Emanuel AME Church in the June 2015 attack. He sat with church members for about 45 minutes and waited until their eyes were closed in prayer before opening fire. He told Polly Sheppard that he wanted to leave her alive to tell the world

that he attacked a historic black church because blacks were “raping our women and taking over the nation.”

Two other people also survived.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan Williams said the “horrific acts justify the death penalty.”

“He killed nine people. ... He killed them because of the color of their skin. He killed them because they were less than people,” Williams said.

The panel has heard from Roof before in the form of his confession to the FBI and his racist manifesto. And on Wednesday, prosecutors read from the journal found in Roof’s jail cell six weeks after his arrest. His handwritten words were projected on screens in the courtroom.

“I remember how I felt when I did these things and how I knew I had to do something and then I realize it was worth it,” he wrote. “I would like to make it crystal clear. I do not regret what I did. I have not shed a tear for the innocent people I killed.”

Asia

Australia scrambles to heal military rift with Indonesia

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia scrambled to calm tensions with Indonesia on Thursday, promising that an investigation was nearly complete into an alleged insult of Indonesian state ideology that prompted Indonesia to suspend military cooperation with its neighbor.

The exact cause of the rift between the two allies remained slightly murky one day after Indonesia’s announcement of the suspension took officials in Canberra by surprise. Military ties between the two nations have been relatively warm in recent years, having improved since Indonesia downgraded its relations with Australia in 2013 over the alleged bugging of phones belonging to Indonesia’s then-president.

Australian Defense Minis-

ter Marise Payne said Thursday that the current issue began in November, after an Indonesian military officer raised concerns about some teaching materials and remarks made at an Army language training facility in western Australia.

Indonesian military spokesman Maj. Gen. Wuryanto said there were reports an Indonesian instructor at the facility felt that a “laminated paper” on display was insulting. According to Indonesian media, the paper contained words that demeaned Pancasila—a set of vague principles that mandates belief in one God and unity among Indonesia’s 250 million people. Wuryanto, who like many Indonesians uses one name, said the training material was among many factors behind the decision

to suspend cooperation with Australia.

On Thursday, Payne was asked about reports that the material also suggested West Papua should be given independence from Indonesia, which is battling the remote region’s separatist movement.

“The issue of West Papua was raised by the Indonesian defense minister, yes,” Payne told reporters.

Payne said an inquiry was launched in November to look into the incident, and its completion was “imminent.” The training material in question had been removed, and would soon be replaced with “appropriate” material, she said.

“We have indicated our regret that this occurred and that offense was taken,” she said.

Indian police detain 6 for New Year’s Eve molestations

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in the southern Indian city of Bangalore detained at least six suspects Wednesday after several women said they were groped and molested during New Year’s Eve celebrations in the city that is the country’s information technology hub.

City police first denied that any sexual harassment had taken place during the late-night celebrations. But on Wednesday, police officer Hemant Nimbalkar said at least six men were detained after several video clips of women being attacked by groups of men spread on social media.

The incident highlights the persistent violence against women in India de-

spite tougher laws against sexual assault imposed after the December 2012 death of a young woman who was gang-raped on a bus in New Delhi.

One senior state government minister said the New Year’s incidents took place because the women were acting like Westerners, implying that their attire had provoked the attacks.

The police had earlier said that no one had come forward to file a complaint about the incidents.

Since then, at least one woman has come forward to speak of how she was molested on Saturday night. Others have said that they saw women being molested or groped, and that

revelers were making lewd remarks, even as the state government said that more than 1,500 police personnel had been deployed to control the crowds.

The young woman who came forward, Chaitali Wasnick, told NDTV news channel that she was heading home at around 1:30 a.m. when two men approached her, making her suspicious. “So I just moved aside, I let them pass,” she said, adding that one man began to grope her.

“I did not have any idea that he’d do that, so I went totally blank,” Wasnick said, adding that no one came to her help and that there were no police personnel around.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Leader of PH group sympathetic to IS group killed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A leader of suspected sympathizers of the Islamic State group was killed Thursday in a clash with Philippine police after resisting arrest at a beach resort in the south, officials said. Senior Supt. Leonardo Suan said Jaafar Maguid, leader of a small armed group called Ansar Al Khilafah Philippines, died in the shootout in southern Sarangani Province’s Kiamba town. Three of Maguid’s followers were arrested in the shooting that happened after police went to check reports from civilians about the presence of armed men, said Suan, deputy director for

operations of the regional police. Officials said Maguid’s group is believed to be behind a string of attacks including a grenade blast that killed a police officer and wounded dozens of people. He is also suspected of recruiting minors in the region.

Taiwan protests Vietnam deporting fraud suspects to China

BEIJING (AP)—Taiwan has protested Vietnam sending four of its nationals accused of fraud to China, saying they were denied visits by Taiwanese diplomats and forcibly sent to the mainland under pressure from Beijing. Scores of Taiwanese

have been arrested around the world in the past year in connection with vast telecoms fraud scams targeting Chinese. Countries including Malaysia, Cambodia and Kenya have deported Taiwanese suspects to China, in deference to Beijing’s claim to sovereignty over the self-governing island. Taiwan has vigorously protested the deportations, saying it should be allowed to prosecute its own citizens. But it lacks diplomatic relations with many of the countries, which have close diplomatic and economic ties to Beijing. Beijing contends that Taiwan gives light treatment to the suspects, who are accused of extorting hundreds of Chinese.

World

Istanbul on alert as hunt for gunman reaches 4th day

ISTANBUL (AP)—Police increased security around Istanbul on Wednesday and detained some 20 people with suspected links to the deadly New Year's Eve night club attack as the hunt for the gunman stretched into a fourth day.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the gunman—who killed 39 people during New Year's celebrations at the Reina club before reportedly escaping in a taxi—had been identified, but did not name him.

Police set up checkpoints across Istanbul as security levels remained high. They stopped cars and taxis, with passengers and drivers holding up their identifications while officers inspected the vehicles.

The city has been on edge since the attack on the upscale club popular with local celebrities, and on Wednesday residents beat up a man said to resemble the wanted gunman before handing him over to police, the Dogan

news agency reported.

Some 20 people, including 11 women, were taken into custody in police raids in the Aegean port city of Izmir, the state-run Anadolu agency said.

The suspects, from the largely Muslim Russian republic of Dagestan, as well as members of China's Muslim Uighur minority and from Syria, were believed to have lived with the gunman in an alleged IS cell house in the central Turkish city of Konya, the agency reported. Some 20 children who were with the detainees were also taken to a police station.

At least 16 people were previously detained in connection with the massacre.

IS has claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in reprisal for Turkish military operations against IS in northern Syria. Of those killed, 27 were foreigners—many from the Middle East.

In his first public address to the nation since the killings, President Recep Tayyip Erdo-

gan said that the attack aimed to set Turks against each other and deepen fault lines, but warned the country would not fall "for this game."

His comments followed a campaign before the attack by some ruling party supporters and pro-Islamic groups who warned against New Year's celebrations they depicted as Western or Christian traditions, as well as some social

media postings that seemed to support the attack on the New Year's revelers.

The campaign and social media postings were condemned by more secular-minded Turks who said their lifestyles were being threatened.

The government has said authorities were taking measures against social media accounts that allegedly "support

terrorism and foster divisiveness in society."

"I repeat once again: no one's lifestyle is under systematic threat in Turkey," Erdogan said in his address Wednesday. "We would never allow such a thing. We didn't allow it in 14 years of governance. If anyone alleges differently they need to put forward concrete examples."

Erdogan also dismissed ac-

cusations that Turkey has, in the past, given support to IS.

"To present the country—which is leading the greatest struggle against Daesh—as one that is supporting terrorism is what the terror organization wants," he said, using the Arabic alternate acronym for IS. "To say Turkey has surrendered to terrorism is to take sides with the terrorists and terror organizations."

Israeli soldier's manslaughter conviction divides country

TELAVIV, Israel (AP)—The rare manslaughter conviction Wednesday of an Israeli soldier who fatally shot a badly wounded Palestinian attacker exposed a deepening rift between proponents of the rule of law and a burgeoning nationalist movement.

The military court verdict against Sgt. Elor Azaria marked a victory for commanders seeking to preserve a code of ethics, but it also brought calls for a pardon from prominent hard-line politicians, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who expressed sympathy for the soldier or depicted him as the victim of a detached elite.

In a statement on Facebook, Netanyahu urged the public to "act responsibly" toward the military, Israel's most respected institution.

"We have one army that is the basis for our existence. IDF soldiers are our sons and daughters, and they must remain above all disputes," he said. But making no direct mention of the military court, he said: "I support granting a pardon to Elor Azaria."

With the statement, Netanyahu plunged into a visceral dispute that has deeply divided Israel, where military service is compulsory and support for young soldiers is widespread.

Since the March shooting, the military leadership has

come under unprecedented criticism, as members of Netanyahu's coalition accused top generals of abandoning a serviceman on the battlefield. The uproar helped fuel the resignation of Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon, who staunchly defended the army from the assault from within.

It is rare for a military court to rule against a soldier over lethal action taken in the field, not only in Israel but also elsewhere in the world. But for a country that claims to have the "most moral army in the world," it had no choice but to come down hard on a soldier that the top brass was convinced had strayed, said Amichai Cohen, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Israeli Democracy Institute think tank.

"If you want the justice system to be taken seriously, you have to punish something like this," he said. "The court can't be influenced by the changing political climate."

Azaria, an army medic, was caught on video by a human rights worker fatally shooting Abdel Fattah al-Sharif, a wounded Palestinian attacker who had stabbed a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron. Al-Sharif was on the ground, unarmed and virtually motionless, when Azaria fired a single bullet in his head as other soldiers milled about.

In Celebration of His New Life

†CHARLES WOODROW INGRAM

NOVEMBER 11, 1940 - DECEMBER 05, 2016



In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Charles W. Ingram
†Nancy H. Ingram

Brothers in Law: †Gregorio B. Sablan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Concepcion S. Ingram

Children and Grandchildren:
Rudy Ingram
James and Maria Ana Ingram
 James Ingram & Shelly Sablan
 (Sheyanne Jayde, Shane Jace)
 Lincoln Ingram
 Charles Ingram
 Tricia Ann Ingram & Glen Vidal (Colin Vidal)
 Aubrey Antonio

Charles Ingram
Irene I. and Jeffrey Matthijssen
 Kristel & Ian Arnott (Evan Arnott)
 Clifford Harrington & Victoria Llanes
 (Hailey Harrington)
 Jessica Matthijssen
 Dyanna Matthijssen

Thomas and Pauline Ingram
 Douglas Ingram
 Jonathan Ingram (Jaezyn Kekauhuna)
 Kaprice Pedro (Kyrie Pedro)
 Jennifer Ingram
 Stephanie Ingram

Second Wife: Helen R. Ingram (Christine Rota)

He will be greatly missed by numerous great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 13, 2017. His remains will be escorted at 8:00 am from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am and Interment Service will follow at CNMI Veterans Cemetery, Marpi where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.
 Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

† *Luisa Cruz Atalig*

Lovingly known as "Lucia/Chia/Chiang"

Wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our families, friends, and those individuals who shared our grief for your love, prayers, and support as we mourned the passing of our beloved "Lucia", a loving mother, grandma, great grandma, sister, and auntie. We are very humbled by your numerous unexpected and unselfish contributions and donations either by in-kind or monetary. Our most sincere appreciation to Reverend Father Neil Bullos for presiding over the mass of Christian burial on 12/28/16. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our prayer leader/techa, Ms. Valarie K. Malwelbug for reciting the nightly rosary and the Cabrera Funeral Home with assisting us in the funeral preparation.

We will be forever grateful and we will always remember your kind generosity and continued support you have given us.

*Again, Un Dangkulu na
Si Yu us Ma'ase and Thank You.*

Consolacion, Jesus, Lourdes,
Ursula, Jesusa
(Children: Rudy, Ana,
Ray Anthony)



Science & Technology

The big thing in TV sets this year is ... big TV sets

LAS VEGAS (AP)—What's new in television sets this year? Incrementally better pictures, larger screens and cheaper prices—and that's about it.

True, set manufacturers are bombarding consumers with a whole series of buzzwords—OLED, 4K, 8K, HDR, QLED, wide color gamut—intended to spur excitement and generate sales. Flashy new sets with these supposedly "must have" features are getting the spotlight Wednesday at the annual CES gadget show in Las Vegas.

But when it comes down to it, none of these amount to revolutionary improvements for your living room. Set manufacturers may not have run out of technological tricks yet, but for this year, at least, they're reduced to improving what's already out there.

"That's a good thing," said Gartner analyst Brian Blau, looking for the bright side. "Products need to be improved."

TRAPPED IN THE BOX

Set manufacturers are in a bind. Gadgets like virtual-reality headsets and smartphones have snagged much of the buzz that flashy new TVs once had.

And while all sorts of other gadgets are getting more intelligent, so-called smart TVs that manage streaming-video services and let you play games have largely left consumers cold. Instead, the brains behind such features have largely migrated to set-top boxes offered by the likes of Roku, Apple and Amazon—or by cable companies themselves.

So TV makers like Samsung and LG have doubled down on what they know best: screen technology.

These days, you're seeing a lot more marketing buzz about "4K" sets, which offer twice the screen resolution of today's high definition, or HD, sets. 4K technology is making a push into the mainstream this year, as prices come down and video providers offer more 4K streaming and channels.

The next step in picture clarity is on its way with so-called 8K sets, which offer four times the resolution of HD, although the technology remains out of reach for most people. During the Summer Olympics last year, for instance, experimental 8K broadcasts were limited to public viewing

areas in Japan.

SEEING IN COLOR

Some TV makers are pushing curved-screen models, which aim to provide more immersive viewing by giving viewers a wider image via their peripheral vision. They're also touting improvements in color.

OLED screen technology produces better colors in part because it doesn't have to be backlit the way standard TVs do. But it's more expensive. LG, which has sold the majority of OLED sets, announced a high-end, ultra-slim model Wednesday that's less than 4 millimeters (0.15 inch) thick; its price won't be revealed until February. Other manufacturers including Sony may announce OLED plans at CES.

Samsung, meanwhile, has been touting "quantum dot" technology, including a refined version called "QLED" announced Tuesday at CES. Quantum dot is essentially a layer of materials for purer colors and brighter displays. LG, Samsung and others also have "high-dynamic range," or HDR, for brighter whites, darker blacks, and a wider range of colors. TCL has an HDR variant called Dolby Vision.

DOES IT MATTER?

Whether the average human eye can really appreciate all this—particularly on smaller screens—is another matter. 4K sets, for instance, offer sharper pictures than older HD screens, but the difference is nowhere as dramatic as the change from older standard definition to HD.

And some of these technologies improve video only for the few movies and shows that support them. For now, technologies like HDR are high-end features for high-end sets, just as 4K was a few years ago.

"There's always a push-and-pull between what TV companies try to sell consumers and what they actually need," IHS Markit analyst Paul Gagnon said.

Ed Morrissey, a writer in Minneapolis, recently bought a 55-inch Samsung 4K TV with a curved screen and HDR, in part to future-proof a purchase he could be living with for almost a decade. "If I'm going to do something new, I want to make sure I have the emerging technology," he said.

It's far from clear, however, which of the color technologies will become standard. Buyers like Morrissey could

end up stranded if, for instance, HDR fails to take off—just as buyers of 3-D sets were after the technology flopped.

TV manufacturers are taking some other steps to make their sets more useful. Gagnon said he expects announcements from TV makers about how their sets will work with new home hubs such as the Amazon Echo and Google Home. And Samsung, Philips and others are allowing people to use smartphones and tablets and voice control to better navigate through channels and streaming services.

RUNNING FOR 4K

About 19 percent of TVs sold in the U.S. in the past year were 4K, up from just 7 percent a year earlier, according to NPD. That's expected to increase to about one-third of TV sales in 2017, as TV makers unveil more models at a wider range of prices, including budget options.

But HDTVs still suffice for many, especially those uninterested in large screens. 4K makes a difference only when the screen is large enough and the couch close enough. "4K is kind of too much for the amount of time I use it," said John Murphy, a Barnstable, Massachusetts, retiree who bought a 50-inch Samsung HD TV recently to replace his 10-year-old Sony 42-incher.

A BUYING OPPORTUNITY

High-end screens and other technologies that were out of reach for most TV shoppers are becoming much more affordable. Consumers are snapping up bargains. NPD says there were 37.4 million TV units sold in the U.S. in the 12 months ending in September, up 4 percent from a year ago. Over that time, the average TV selling price dropped 3 percent to \$432.

For some buyers, lower prices means a chance to upgrade to bigger sets. Jon Abt, co-president of Abt Electronics retail store near Chicago, said the 55-inch "sweet spot" TV size for the family room seems to have jumped to 65-inch and larger.

NPD said that 23 percent of all TVs sold were 55 inches or bigger, up from 20 percent a year earlier.

"We've seen strength across all categories, small screen, large screen, older technology and newer tech," NPD analyst Stephen Baker said. He said the combination of lower prices, picture quality and screen size has "brought a lot of customers back into the market."

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of

† *Hilaria Kisa Santos*

give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one now rests in the love and peace of His embrace.

Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our friends and family for all the kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the Celebration of the Eucharist in honor of our beloved mother and grandmother, †Hilaria Kisa Santos. Your prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to accept the will of God no matter how painful and difficult. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yurus Marase
Ellen, Maggie, Vivian, Ken & Families





In Grateful Appreciation

The Song of Memory

*When someone we love passes on beyond life
in the world that we know and is gone,
A beautiful sense of their presence, like music
remembered by heart, lingers on...*

*When someone we love finds a wonderful
home in a world only faith can reveal,
Our memories can be like a song in the heart,
with the power to comfort and heal.*

(Author Unknown)

We the family of our dearly beloved

Antonia (Tonie) Mafnas Apatang,

are deeply grateful for the outpouring support, care, kindness, words of comfort and wisdom, and the unconditional love extended to us during our most difficult time of our lives as we mourn and grief in the passing of our dearly beloved.

Our beloved, †Tonie, was welcomed home by our Lord on December 12, 2016. Our loved one, †Tonie, lived a fulfilling and blessed life. Her grace and wisdom will be truly missed and instilled in our hearts. Her beautiful and warm spirit and energy we will hold dear to us. Her passing has affected us immensely but we are content knowing that she is with our Lord.

Un dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase to Bishop Ryan, Father Romil, Father Jesse and Father James for your prayers, guidance and services. We also thank Tan Ko' and the altar servers for your services. To the Olomwaay Family Choir, your music gave us peace and comfort. We thank Blossoms Floral Depot and Borja Funeral Home for your services. We also thank the medical staff of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the Naval Hospital on Guam and Tripler Hospital in Hawaii, together with medical referral staff on Saipan, Guam and Hawaii for your services.

As we welcome the New Year, let us rejoice in our lives and be blessed with the gifts of life, family, and love. In God's Garden she may dwell, in our heart is where she lives. A blessed New Year to you all, and May God bless us all.

THE FAMILY OF ANTONIA (TONIE) MAFNAS APATANG

**Mayor David M. Apatang
Children and Grandchildren**

Off The Wall

New Hampshire has a new governor—but only for 2 days

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—New Hampshire has a new governor—for two days.

Republican Senate President Chuck Morse is in charge between former governor Maggie Hassan's swearing in as a U.S. Senator and Gov.-elect Chris Sununu's inauguration. He's approaching the short stint with a bit of sharp humor.

"Over the last four years, I thought I was the acting gover-

nor," he said, referencing Hassan's two terms. The pair often sparred over who deserved credit for the state budget and other policy accomplishments.

Morse officially became governor at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday and will hold the job until about noon Thursday, when Sununu is sworn in. It's a short stint, but Morse is getting all the treatment of a regular governor, including a security detail to pick him up each



morning at his Salem home. He was ceremoniously introduced as governor to kick off Wednesday's House session, sitting next to Speaker Shawn Jasper as members prayed, sang the national anthem and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Morse, who's been Senate president since 2013, said he has no big plans for his newfound power. He's opting to mostly remain in his third-floor Senate office, saying he's too superstitious to sit in the governor's chair. But he planned some ceremonial activities in the governor's chamber, including signing proclamations and taking photos with members from his home district.

While rare, the situation isn't unprecedented. Former

Senate President Ralph Hough served as governor for about a week in 1993, when Judd Gregg left the post to become a U.S. senator. Other states have had similar—or stranger—situations. New Jersey once had five governors over eight days in 2002.

Morse said a surprising amount of preparation went into his two-day reign.

That prep included meetings with the Departments of Safety and Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as well as assigning the temporary security detail. It also involved meetings with the Senate's legal counsel to understand how Morse's Senate role would change. Senate President Pro Tempore Sharon Carson presided over Wednesday's brief session.

Morse said he's not looking to step on his successor's toes.

"I'm a firm believer that Chris Sununu is the next governor," he said.

But someone did mark a spot on the State House walls where Morse could be forever remembered.

FIFTH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

†Urbano Crisostimo Babauta, Sr. "Bano"

We, the family invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Fifth Year Death Anniversary of my beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Nightly masses will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at Santa Soledad Church, Kagman and followed by nightly rosary. Mass of Intention and Rosary will commence on January 6, 2017 through January 14, 2017.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Dolores Duenas Babauta,
Children & Families.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Twins delivered minutes apart have different birth years

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP)—Twins delivered 10 minutes apart at an Arizona hospital over the New Year's weekend have different birth years. Phoenix TV station KNXV-TV reports that parents Holly and Brandon Shay welcomed their first son, Sawyer, into the world at 11:51 p.m. Saturday at Banner Hospital. Their second son, Everett, arrived one minute after midnight on Sunday. The father joked that Sawyer will tease his brother about being the older sibling. The same thing happened over the weekend in San Diego. Twin girls born at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women & Newborns were delivered at 11:56 p.m. Saturday and at midnight on Sunday.

German man's front door walled up overnight

BERLIN (AP)—Police say a man in western Germany ran into a wall, literally, as he opened his front door to leave the house earlier this week. The man was heading out of his house in Mainhausen, near Frankfurt, on Monday morning but found that unknown perpetrators had—it seems quietly and without attracting anyone's attention—built a wall in the doorway during the night. He had to tear down the

wall to leave. A police statement said the man "must have felt like a Berliner in August 1961," referring to East Germany's unannounced sealing of its border with the Berlin Wall. Police spokesman Ingbert Zacharias told news agency dpa late Tuesday that officers don't know whether a prank, a dare or an act of revenge was behind the wall.

Kansas Congressman's son 'dabs' during swearing-in photo op

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new Kansas congressman is dishing out discipline after his 17-year-old son pulled a dance move resembling a sneeze during a photo shoot with House Speaker Paul Ryan after the House swearing-in ceremony in Washington. U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall tweeted: "He's grounded." During the photo shoot Tuesday, Cal Marshall held the Bible with his father and Ryan. As the photographer prepared to take photos, the son raised one arm in the move popularized by sports celebrities known as dabbing, hiding his face as if he was about to sneeze. Ryan asked if he was OK. As the teen began laughing, Marshall said: "He's sneezing." Marshall, an obstetrician, won Kansas' 1st Congressional District seat after beating incumbent tea party favorite Tim Huelskamp in the Republican primary.

Life & Style

Moonlight, 'La La Land,' 'Deadpool' land WGA Award nods

NEW YORK (AP)—Oscar favorites “Moonlight,” “La La Land” and “Manchester by the Sea” landed Writers Guild Award nominations on Wednesday, but so did

the R-rated “X-Men” spinoff “Deadpool.”

The Writers Guild of America announced its nominees for the best screenplays of the year with selections that

largely stuck to awards season regulars. The best original screenplay nominees were: Kenneth Lonergan’s script for “Manchester by the Sea,” Barry Jenkins’ “Moonlight,” Damien Chazelle’s “La La Land,” Taylor Sheridan’s “Hell or High Water” and Jeff Nichols’ “Loving.”

While the WGA Awards can be strong predictors of the Academy Award screenplay nominees, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has already deemed “Loving” (inspired by Nancy Buirski’s documentary) and “Moonlight” (based on Tarell Alvin McCraney’s play) adapted scripts.

The nominees for best adapted screenplay were: “Arrival,” penned by Eric Heisserer; “Fences,” by the late playwright August Wilson; “Hidden Figures,” by Allison Schroeder and Theodore Melfi; “Nocturnal Animals,” by Tom Ford; and



AP
This image released by A24 shows Alex Hibbert, foreground, and Mahershala Ali in a scene from the film, “Moonlight.”

“Deadpool,” by Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick. The snarky superhero film, easily the most unexpected choice of the bunch, earlier scored two nods for this Sunday’s Golden Globes.

Nominees for best docu-

mentary screenplay went to “Author: The JT LeRoy Story,” written by Jeff Feuerzeig; “Command and Control,” with a telescript by Robert Kenner and Eric Schlosser, from a story Brian Pearle and Kim Roberts; and

Alex Gibney’s “Zero Days.”

The WGA will name the winners to its 69th annual awards on Feb. 19 in simultaneous ceremonies in New York and Los Angeles. Television nominations were announced earlier.

Michael Keaton reveals why he left Batman franchise

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Keaton has revealed the reason behind his departure from the “Batman” franchise after two films.

Keaton starred as the superhero in 1989’s “Batman” and 1992’s “Batman Returns.” Both of those films were directed by Tim Burton. Joel Schumacher was hired to direct 1995’s “Batman Forever,” and Keaton decided to pass on starring in that film.

Keaton said in an inter-

view with The Hollywood Reporter’s “Awards Chatter” podcast that the script for the film “never was good.” He said he didn’t understand why Schumacher “wanted to do what he wanted to do” with the film, which was lighter in tone than the first two films.

Val Kilmer stepped in as the caped crusader.

Keaton is currently starring in “The Founder,” a biopic about fast food pioneer Ray Kroc.



AP

In this Sept. 15, 2016, file photo, actor Michael Keaton poses for photographers upon arrival at the world premiere of the film “The Beatles, Eight Days a Week” in London. Keaton told The Hollywood Reporter’s “Awards Chatter” podcast released Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2016, that he left the Batman franchise because the script for the third film in the series “sucked” and “never was good.”

James Corden mourns ‘Carpool Karaoke’ pioneer George Michael

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Corden says he feels like he has loved George Michael as long as he’s loved music.

The “Late Late Show” host paid tribute to the late

singer on his program Tuesday night. He showed a 2011 skit with Michael that he did for a charity event in their native England. The skit featured Michael and Corden singing in a car and

was a precursor to Corden’s wildly popular “Carpool Karaoke” segments.

Corden says he showed the skit to Mariah Carey in order to convince her to appear in his first “Carpool Karaoke”

segment. Corden says Carey told him, “if it’s good enough for George, then it’s good enough for me.”

Michael was found dead in his home in England on Christmas Day.

Drake leads iHeartRadio Music Awards nominations with 12

NEW YORK (AP)—Drake leads the nominations for the 2017 iHeartRadio Music Awards with 12, including male artist of the year, while electronic duo The Chainsmokers has 11 nominations,

including song of the year for “Closer” with Halsey.

iHeartMedia and Turner announced the nominees Wednesday. It was also announced that Bruno Mars will perform at the fourth an-

nual awards show, to be held March 5 in Los Angeles and televised on TBS, TNT and truTV, as well as simulcast on iHeartMedia stations.

This year’s show has been expanded to more than 30

categories. Other multiple nominees include twenty one pilots, Rihanna, Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande, Beyoncé, Daya, Halsey, Nicky Jam and Sia.

Tickets go on sale Friday.

Toddler’s taste in clothes stirs up family tensions

DEAR ABBY: My brother and sister-in-law have been dressing my 2-year-old nephew, “Charlie,” in dresses and pink clothes. They say these are what the boy has chosen. To me, a toddler will pick out whatever gets his attention at the moment, and children that age have only a rudimentary understanding of gender.

It would be one thing if Charlie were old enough to understand and still insisted he felt more comfortable in girls’ clothing. But at his age I feel what they’re doing will only confuse him. Keep in mind, I do not believe this is a transgender issue. I think people who are transgender should dress and act the way they feel. I just feel that age 2 is too young to determine this.

My parents (the boy’s grandparents) are worried and angry. My sister-in-law knows this upsets my mother and yet it’s like she’s taunting her with texts and pictures of Charlie in pink and/or dresses.

Should we be worried about this or should it be none of our business? Are we overreacting? Would it be best to approach my brother to tell him our concerns?

TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND

DEAR TOO YOUNG: It is likely that Charlie is going through a phase and doing something he has seen other people do. But more important than what his mother buys for him is how others respond to it. A family’s negative reaction

sends a strong message. If Charlie is innocently testing out his/her authentic self, his grandparents’ negative response will signal that they disapprove of who he IS, which could have lasting ramifications for him.

Counselors at PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) have told me that many parents say that, looking back, they realize that by disapproving, they had sent their child the message that they couldn’t accept him/her. One child had suicidal thoughts at the age of 5 because of it. (And yes, sometimes children that young do act on the impulse.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I often read and enjoy the Pennies From Heaven stories that your readers send and decided to share mine. Although it doesn’t involve a penny, it’s very special to me.

My grandmother and I had a special bond, and part of it was sand dollars. She taught me their meaning and would mail me postcards with pictures of dollars on them. When she passed away, I inherited the gold sand dollar necklace she had often worn.

I moved into a new home several years ago, and during the home inspection, I found a sand dollar in the pantry! Everything had been emptied out of the house except for that lone sand dollar propped upright on a shelf. When I saw it, I knew immediately who it was from, and I felt so blessed. It’s comforting to

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



know we are being watched over by our loved ones.

SAND DOLLAR BLESSING

DEAR BLESSING: Your letter made me smile. I wish you had mentioned what your late grandmother explained to you about the meaning of sand dollars, because from what I have read, some people associate them with Christian beliefs, while others insist they are “coins” scattered by mermaids. Whichever meaning your grandmother ascribed to them, it’s clear from what you have written that she was dearly loved. Thank you for sharing.

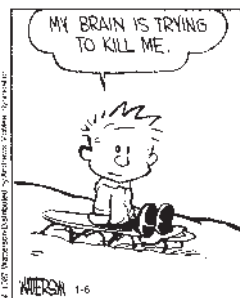
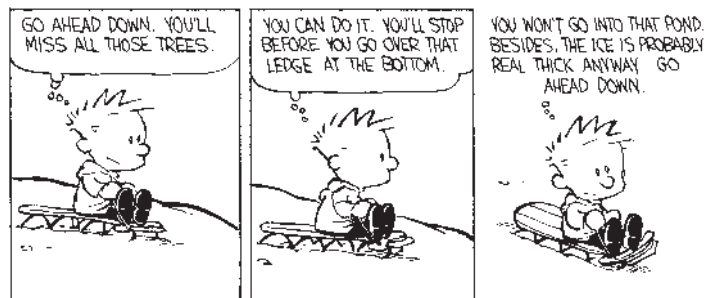
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

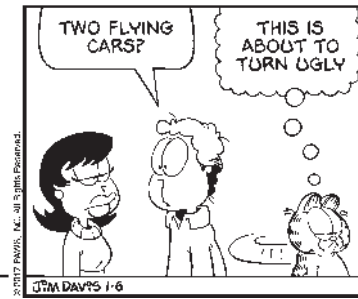
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



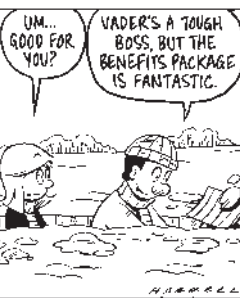
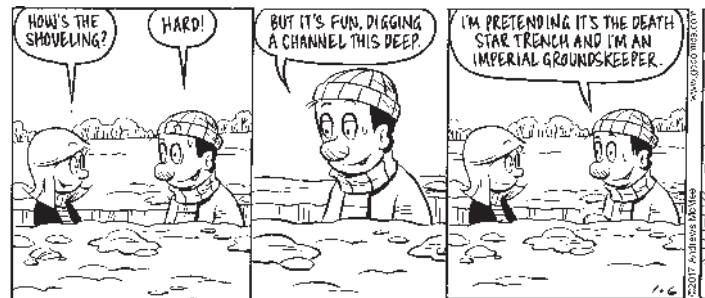
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



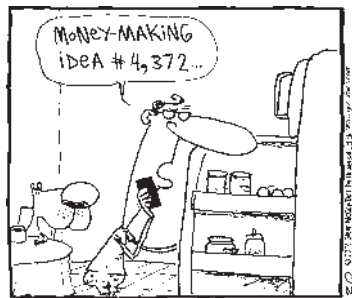
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Little lie

4 Senate staffer

8 Dresses in

12 Tramcar contents

13 Mellows

14 Send forth

15 Road Runner's call

17 Green Gables girl

18 Actor's quest

19 Hunter in the sky

20 Sneeze sound

22 Word of warning

24 Fly high

25 Go to bat for

29 Right angle

30 Musical transition

31 Man-mouse link

32 Legend-ary island

DOWN

1 Watch chain

2 Rage

3 Oktober-fest

4 Cellist

5 Writer

6 "My word!"

7 Mental-ist's claim

8 Lack

9 Hotel chain

10 Baja boy

11 British gun

16 Indigent

19 Never again?

20 Cruising

21 Filly's brother

22 Finger or toe

23 Burden

25 Tennis ace

26 Hive dweller

27 Persia, today

28 Reveille's opposite

30 Tizzy

33 Old sayings

34 Penn or Astin

36 Lock of hair

37 Unwanted email

38 Met solo

39 Grime

40 Hang in the balance

42 Status —

43 Web address

44 A long time

45 Superla-tive suffix

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	A	M	P	S	I	H	S	I	E	P
E	S	A	L	P	S	I	C	A	L	L
E	T	R	E	U	R	N	O	N	L	Y
D	I	S	S	A	R	G	R	O	G	
L	I	T	-	L	E	P	I	G	S	
E	H	R	O	H	H	E	Y	B	H	A
D	A	I	S	J	E	T	B	L	I	P
A	G	E	T	I	M	E	E	T	S	
M	U	S	K	E	T	E	E	R	S	
I	O	A	N	D	I	-	H	E	R	
C	L	I	O	E	L	I	M	U	L	E
O	I	N	K	Y	E	T	A	L	A	N
P	E	G	S	S	O	S	N	A	N	O

Yesterday's answer 1-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julie Chen, 47; Gabrielle Reece, 47; John Singleton, 49; Rowan Atkinson, 62.

Happy Birthday: Don't allow complexity to send you into a tailspin. Take control of whatever situation you face. It's in your best interest to see matters through to the end. Look for alternative ways to reach your goals in a cost-efficient manner. Put greater importance on the way you look and how you treat others. Love and romance should be a priority. Your numbers are 7, 12, 24, 27, 32, 35, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get all business offers in writing. You'll be taken advantage of if you are gullible. Be the one to bring about change instead of getting caught in someone else's plans. Think on your feet and make your move. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A twist of fate will leave you in a cushy position. Take advantage of your good fortune and make a move that will ensure that you get what you want. Sign up for a course or group that offers enlightenment and self-motivation. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Size up a situation and do whatever you have to do to get what you want. Renegotiate a deal if you feel you've been mistreated. Other options will develop if you partner with someone who shares your sentiments. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use charm and compliments to help you get your way. A short trip or indulging in a practice that will help you be more self-aware and

mindful of others will also encourage you to alter the situations that are causing you stress. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Check out new possibilities that will help you improve a legal, financial or medical situation. Don't let your emotions influence your situation. Make sure things feel right before you make a move. Consider possible motives before you proceed. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use unusual tactics to get around a situation that will leave you in dire straits at home and in your personal life. You should be doing whatever it takes to lower your stress instead of letting someone add to your problems. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Good fortune will be aided by your using common sense. Don't let impulsiveness cause you financial or personal setbacks. Ask someone with experience to make suggestions, but rely on yourself when it comes time to make a decision. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of matters concerning institutions. You can win if you are well versed in the rules and regulations. Contracts, settlements and business negotiations will turn in your favor if you are prepared. Plan a romantic celebration. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Personal changes look promising as long as you don't overspend. Be realistic and you will find the path that leads to long-lasting success and happiness. Aim for security and stability. Accept, discard and move on to something new and exciting. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take a risk while traveling or dealing with someone of influence. Protect your reputation and live up to your promises. Don't resist the inevitable. Look for unique ways to solve problems and you will come out on top. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Collect money that is owed to you and pay off as much debt as you can. Taking care of personal business will lead to opportunities to start fresh and do things differently. Don't refuse help if someone offers. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let the changes going on around you cause anxiety. An opportunity is within reach if you keep an open mind. Consider how you can use your skills to fill in any missing links. Add value and boost your reputation. ***

Birthday Baby: You are curious, intelligent and determined. You are adventuresome and spirited.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7		1	6		2		4
		6	1		5		
			8				
						7	
4	2				3		6
	5						
			7				
		9		5	4		
1	7		2	8		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	7	9	8	3	5	1	4
3	9	4	1	5	2	6	7	8
1	5	8	6	4	7	3	2	9
5	1	3	7	2	8	9	4	6
4	8	2	5	6	9	7	3	1
9	7	6	3	1	4	2	8	5
8	2	9	4	3	6	1	5	7
6	3	1	8	7	5	4	9	2
7	4	5	2	9	1	8	6	3

Difficulty Level: ★★★

3/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ROCOO FURNITURE

Solution: 12 letters

E T A N R O R N A M E N T A L
A E L E G A N T T L M I N O R
P N L T L D E T F U T A R T S
R I E S A L E G S H N K C O R
O B H A V C I I E B G L B H O
N A S R I C A A H C H A I R
O C I T S I T R A Y T G D W R
I Y E N S H E O M R C I H G E I
T N U O R Q M T I L A K E E M
A A R C U E E S D R T S S Z O
R G O E R U S E L B R A M N T
O O P H Q A D V U L O M R O I
C H E R L S T R E T C H E R F
E A A C S E R U G I F E D B S
D M N I A L E C R O P A I N T

©2017 Andrew Volkes www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/6

Apron, Artistic, Arts, Badges, Baroque, Bronze, Cabinet, Chair, Classic, Contrast, Curves, Decoration, Elegant, European, Figures, Gilded, Gold, Hammerhead, Lavish, Legs, Mahogany, Marble, Marquetry, Mask, Minor, Mirrors, Motifs, Music, Ormolu, Ornamental, Ornate, Paint, Porcelain, Rock, Shell, Stretcher, Theater, Tufted, Walnut

Yesterday's Answer: Assigned
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Email: brian@pticom.com

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(3) WAITRESS
2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business
Salary: \$ 6.55 per hour
Other Qualifications:
• At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality
• Full time with flexible working hours
• Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently
(3) GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Salary: \$ 6.55 per hour
Qualifications:
• At least 2-3 years experience as a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry
• Full time with flexible working hours
Please mail your resume to
P.O. Box 502589, Saipan, MP 96950 or
contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545

WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Bank of Saipan

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- Interview loan applicants to obtain personal and financial data and to assist in completing applications.
- Assemble and compile documents for loan closings, such as title abstracts, insurance forms, loan forms, and tax receipts.
- Answer questions and advise customers regarding loans and transactions.
- Contact customers by mail, telephone, or in person concerning acceptance or rejection of applications.

Qualifications: High School Graduate or Equivalent, must demonstrate excellent Microsoft Office Skills, must have excellent communication and customer service skills.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business
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• Full time with flexible working hours
Please mail your resume to
PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950 or
contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

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Home of 'V-KOOL'
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2 Positions (SAIPAN)
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• Good knowledge of upholstery materials selections.
• Salary: Negotiable
Special consideration will be given to any individual who is eager to pursue a professional career as a Upholsterer.
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Window film installer "Film Specialist": 2 Positions (SAIPAN)
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• Ability to work with varieties of window films and window glass surfaces and must not afraid of height.
• Ability to work independent with minimum supervision.
• Salary: Negotiable
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2016
Opening date: December 28, 2016 **Closing date: January 13, 2017**

Positions: (2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Rota)
(1) General Maintenance-I (Saipan) (1) Rota Ports Manager
(1) ARFF Trainee (Saipan) (1) Vessel Traffic Controller (Saipan)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office is no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, January 13, 2017.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

LeBron can't do it alone as Butler, Bulls down Cavs, 106-94



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James was reminded what it's like to be Cleveland's only star. Lonesome and no fun.

Jimmy Butler took over in the fourth quarter, scoring 10 straight points during a critical stretch and leading the Chicago Bulls to a 106-94 win Wednesday night over the Cavaliers, who had a less-than-100 percent James and were without Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love.

Butler, who was coming off a 52-point game against Charlotte, scored 14 of his 20 points in the fourth as the Bulls held off Cleveland's rally and ended the Cavs' 13-game winning streak with James in the lineup.

Butler said Dwyane Wade, who returned to his hometown this summer, encouraged his new teammate to take control.

"The guy who wears No. 3 on this team came to me and was like, 'Win the game,'" Butler said. "So I guess a switch cut on. I knew I was going to have to do that in the fourth anyway, but with him telling me that, you can't let D-Wade down."

"He's been doing it for years. It was my time to step up."

James, who has been battling a head cold for several days, was questionable until about 20 minutes before the game, when the Cavs announced he would be the one - and only - member of Cleveland's "Big 3" in uniform. He finished with 31 points, eight rebounds and seven assists in 37 minutes.

James was forced to go it alone as Irving missed his third straight game with a hamstring issue that appears to be more serious than first diagnosed and Love is still recovering from a nasty case of food poisoning.

James said there was never any question he would play.

"If I can walk, I can go," he said, "unless coach tells me to sit down. My plan was to play."

But without Irving and Love, the Cavs didn't have enough firepower to slow the



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, fouls Chicago Bulls' Dwyane Wade in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, in Cleveland.

Bulls, who got 17 points from Doug McDermott and made a season-high 13 3-pointers.

The Bulls made just 1 of 8 3s in the first quarter before finding their range. They dropped 11 of their next 14 and built a 15-point lead when James went to the bench with 3:30 left in the third quarter.

But Cleveland's reserves cut Chicago's lead to four when James returned with 8:49 remaining. He made two straight layups to pull the Cavs within 89-88 and was driving for the go-ahead bucket when Butler stepped in front of him in the lane and drew a charge.

"He's coming at you full speed, that's the right play to make," Butler said. "It could go either way, obviously. You've got to brace yourself. I got all my pads here somewhere. We've got all of that for a reason."

James didn't argue about the foul.

"It was a good call," James said.

Butler then hit a 3-pointer on the next possession, and Cleveland never got closer

than eight and had its home winning streak ended at nine.

The Cavs are set to embark on a season-long, six-game road trip. James was asked if it's coming at a good time with the injury and illnesses.

"I don't know until we know who's active," he said. "I don't know if it's going to be a good time or not until we know who's active and who's playing. See what happens."

Wade scored 10 points in 27 minutes after missing Monday's game with a swollen left knee. He said it feels better but the team will monitor him closely.

"This is a grueling month," Wade said. "We have four back-to-backs. We want to play it smart, find gaps, find days to get through it."

Bucks 105, Knicks 104

In New York, Giannis Antetokounmpo made a turnaround jumper at the buzzer to give Milwaukee a victory over New York.

Antetokounmpo finished with 27 points and 13 rebounds, and he gave the Bucks a final possession when he

knocked the ball off Derrick Rose and out of bounds with 8.6 seconds left. Officials originally ruled the ball was off the Bucks but reversed the call after video review.

Antetokounmpo handled things from there, calmly backing down Lance Thomas before turning and shooting from the foul line, the ball going in as time expired.

Carmelo Anthony had 30 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Knicks, who lost their sixth straight.

Warriors 125, Trail Blazers 117

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Curry had 35 points with five 3-pointers, Kevin Durant scored 30 points and blocked three shots and Golden State beat Portland.

Zaza Pachulia scored 13 points to hit double figures in consecutive games for the first time this season, just his fourth time reaching double digits for Golden State. He also matched his career high with three blocks in the Warriors' ninth straight home win.

C.J. McCollum scored 35 points to lead a Portland team still without Damian Lillard, and the Trail Blazers certainly had to feel better about hanging tough in this one after their forgettable 45-point defeat here 2 1/2 weeks earlier.

Curry shot 12 for 25 on a night Splash Brother Klay Thompson struggled to find his stroke from long range, going 1 of 7 and scoring 14 points. Curry added seven rebounds and five assists.

Clippers 115, Grizzlies 106

In Los Angeles, Austin Rivers scored a season-high 28 points and helped rally Los Angeles from a 12-point deficit in the third quarter to beat Memphis for its second win in a row.

Jamal Crawford added 22 points off the bench and DeAndre Jordan had 18 points and 20 rebounds for the Clippers, who improved to 4-9 in the regular season without Blake Griffin and Chris Paul. Both injured stars watched from the bench; Paul could return from a sore hamstring this week.

Marc Gasol scored 23 points and Mike Conley had 17 points and a season-high 12 assists for the Grizzlies.

Hornets 123, Thunder 112

In Charlotte, N.C., Nicolas Batum had a season-high 28 points, and Charlotte beat Oklahoma City to snap a two-game losing streak.

Batum was 7 of 18 from the field and made 13 of 15 free throws. The Hornets were 40 of 49 from the foul line.

Russell Westbrook had 33 points and 15 rebounds, but fell two assists shy of his 17th triple-double of the season for Oklahoma City. Enes Kanter added 22 points, and Victor Oladipo and Steven Adams each had 18.

Hawks 111, Magic 92

In Orlando, Fla., Dennis Schroder scored 18 points, Dwight Howard had 13 points and 12 rebounds and Atlanta pulled away late in a victory over Orlando for its fourth straight win.

Kent Bazemore scored 17 points, and Paul Millsap had a big second half to finish with 16 points. Bazemore and Millsap knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers late in the fourth quarter to close the door on Orlando, which pulled within four points of the lead during the final period.

Elfrid Payton and Aaron Gordon led the Magic with 15 points each, and Evan Fournier came off the bench to score 14 points.

Heat 107, Kings 102

In Sacramento, Calif., Tyler Johnson scored 23 points and Miami beat Sacramento to snap a six-game losing streak.

The Heat squandered a 19-point third-quarter lead and trailed on several occasions in the fourth before Johnson gave them a 105-102 lead on a three-point play with 27.8 seconds left. The victory was Miami's sixth straight over Sacramento and 16th in 17 meetings.

Goran Dragic had 19 points and seven assists for the Heat. Arron Affalo, Garrett Temple and Ty Lawson each had 15 points for the Kings.

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Donatas Motiejunas, the Pelicans' new 7-footer, might sound delusional to more cynical NBA observers.

Two of the first topics Motiejunas discussed after his first practice with the Pelicans on Wednesday were the health of his back and the Pelicans' playoff prospects, offering rosy outlooks on both fronts.

"I'm going to prove it when I get on the floor," Motiejunas

Motiejunas' new mission with the Pelicans: Get Davis open

said when asked about fighting the perception that he's been damaged goods since back surgery near the end of the 2014-15 season. "I don't see an issue to fighting through this."

The versatile Lithuanian, who has left and right post-up moves, hits about 31 percent of his 3-point attempts and draws praise for his passing ability, also sees himself as a

boost to the Pelicans' playoff chances. New Orleans is eight games below .500 (14-22), but sat just two games out of the final Western Conference playoff spot heading into Wednesday night's NBA slate.

When Motiejunas was asked whether he saw his stint with the Pelicans, which will pay him a pro-rated veteran minimum of about \$600,000,

as an audition for when he becomes a free agent again next summer, he answered by talking about team goals.

"I'm here to help the team win. I'm not here to look at my personal stats," Motiejunas said. "If this team is going to make the playoffs and I'm going to help them, it's going to put my value up regardless."

Motiejunas later added, "As

long as we're going to stay healthy, this team right now can make a big push."

A handful of teams expressed interest in signing Motiejunas, who has played four seasons in the NBA with Houston, averaging 7.8 points and four rebounds. They were all offering about the same pay because most teams at this point in the season are

restricted to paying the NBA minimum for new free-agent acquisitions.

Gentry said the Pelicans had internal discussions about trading for Motiejunas last year and were pleased to be able to get him now in a low-risk, free-agent deal.

Gentry said the presence of Anthony Davis and up-tempo, evenly spaced offense the Pelicans run appealed to Motiejunas.

After brilliant season, Falcons QB Ryan shrugs off MVP talk



FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP)—Good luck trying to get Matt Ryan to discuss his MVP chances.

His boss isn't so shy.

"If I had a vote for MVP, it would certainly be Matt," Atlanta Falcons coach Dan Quinn said Wednesday. "He's had a fantastic year in a lot of ways."

Ryan just finished up the best regular season of his career, leading the Falcons to a division championship and first-round bye in the playoffs. There is no doubt he is one of the top contenders for the NFL's highest individual honor, usually included in the same breath with New England's Tom Brady, Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers and Dallas rookie Ezekiel Elliott.

The Falcons have never had a player capture the MVP award.

Ryan shrugged off his chances, again showing his adept ability to scramble away from saying much of anything that will draw attention to himself. He truly is the ultimate team player, which is why the quarterback is so revered in the Atlanta locker room.

"It's obviously nice to be mentioned, for sure," Ryan said. "That's special. But at the end of the day, we've got bigger things in front of us."

Ryan closed with a flourish, throwing for 331 yards and four touchdowns in a 38-32 victory over the New Orleans



Saints last Sunday. It was his fourth straight game with a rating above 120, good enough to claim the NFC offensive player of the week award for the second time this season.

As impressive as he's been on the field, Ryan contributes just as much to the Falcons' success when he's away from

the spotlight.

"There are so many things that don't show up on the stat sheet," Quinn said. "How many people he's affected on our team. He's a fantastic teammate. That's one of the highest praises you can give to a ballplayer."

Ryan endured some baffling

mistakes last season, raising doubts that he'd ever be the guy to lead the Falcons to their first Super Bowl championship.

Turns out, he had to work through an adjustment period with offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, who came aboard with Quinn after the

firing of long-time coach Mike Smith.

"We were just trying to get to where we needed to be," receiver Julio Jones said.

In Year 2, coordinator and quarterback are in total sync. Shanahan is now one of the hottest assistants in the league, leading to an interview for the

New Orleans Saints defensive tackle Nick Fairley, right, and New Orleans Saints outside linebacker Dannell Ellerbe (59) sack Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, in Atlanta.

Denver Broncos head coaching job.

"He picked up the offense," Jones said of Ryan. "He understands this read, that read, what Kyle wants. You can see the production. It would have been there last year, but we just didn't gel as well."

Ryan was the league's highest-rated passer, completing 69.9 percent of his attempts for a career-best 4,944 yards, with 38 touchdowns and just seven interceptions. The most impressive part of this season is the way he's gotten everyone involved, becoming the first quarterback to throw scoring passes to 13 different receivers.

"We get a lot guys involved," Quinn said. "Our whole team has a real clear understanding of our identity."

Coaches and teammates may be campaigning for him, but don't expect Ryan to talk up his chances.

Just not his style.

"I think I've played well," Ryan said. "But I don't think about it too much, in all honesty. You focus on trying to prepare well and trying to play well. That's been a formula that's worked pretty well."

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—For the first 15 games of the season, rookie Connor Cook was inactive each week, making his biggest contribution as a scout team quarterback who would sometimes dress up like Cam Newton or Philip Rivers before Oakland faced those stars to lighten the mood at practice.

Now with the Raiders set to play their first playoff game in 14 years, Cook has been thrust into a much more significant role. He will become the first quarterback in the Super Bowl era to make his first career start in a playoff game when Oakland (12-4) visits Houston (9-7) on Saturday in a wild-card matchup.

"I'm just embracing the opportunity," Cook said Wednesday. "I'm going to go out there and have fun, let it all hang out and obviously prepare my butt off and do what I've been doing all year long and go out there and have fun with my teammates."

Cook moved up to the backup spot last week after starter Derek Carr broke his right leg in the second-to-last game of the regular season. He then got his first real action last Sunday in Denver after Matt McGloin was knocked out with a left shoulder injury.

Raiders to start Connor Cook at QB against Texans

With Carr still sidelined and McGloin slowed by the injury, coach Jack Del Rio called the decision to turn to Cook an easy one.

"We just want him to be himself and do what he can do," Del Rio said. "He played pretty well when he went in and Matt's hurt. We're hoping to get Matt healthy enough to be in a backup role. Right now, that remains in question."

Cook showed some positive signs in his limited action last week even though Oakland lost 24-6 to miss an opportunity to clinch the AFC West and earn a first-round bye.

He completed 14 of 21 passes for 150 yards and a 32-yard TD pass to Amari Cooper but also turned the ball over twice against one of the league's top defenses. The challenge won't get any easier this week against a highly regarded Houston defense led by edge rusher Jadeveon Clowney.

"I felt pretty calm," Cook said. "With the hard circumstances, just going in there and stuff, I felt like I was confident. I know the offense well. I've been in the system for almost



In this Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, photo, Oakland Raiders quarterback Connor Cook passes against the Denver Broncos in the first half of an NFL football game in Denver.

a year now. We were running stuff that I've been familiar with. It was actually fun to get out there and get some reps."

The Raiders thought highly enough of Cook that they traded up in the draft to take him with the top pick of the fourth round, moving ahead of the

Dallas Cowboys, who ended up with Dak Prescott instead.

Cook had been projected by many to go higher in the draft to a team looking for a potential starting quarterback but ended up being the seventh quarterback selected. Five of those other players

started games this year while Cook just watched, but he will be the first to get a chance in the playoffs. Prescott will start next week for the Cowboys.

Cook had a prolific college career, leading Michigan State to a 34-5 record and two Big Ten championships in three

years as starter for the Spartans. Cook threw for 71 touchdowns and 9,194 yards in his career but completed just 57.5 percent of his passes. Cook also faced criticism of his leadership skills after his teammates decided not to elect him as team captain, a slight Spartans coach Mark Dantonio downplayed.

"He did a great job leading us," Dantonio said. "He led us to two Big Ten championships and three big bowl games. When you're playing in the Rose Bowl, or Cotton Bowl in the playoffs, or the Big Ten championship games, you're on a big stage. This of course is a bigger stage, but he has experienced the anxiety that comes in those situations and he has performed well in those situations."

While Cook said he prefers to lead with his play rather than a rah-rah style, his teammates in Oakland noted that his laidback demeanor instills confidence.

"He has this calm sense about him," running back Jalen Richard said. "He got in there in the game in Denver and he'll be out there ready to call the play and has his hands in his hand warmer calling the play with that swagger. I feel very confident in Connor."

Rajai Davis returning to A's with \$6M, 1-year deal

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—After a World Series trip with Cleveland, runnin’ Rajai Davis is returning to the Bay Area with the Oakland Athletics on a \$6 million, one-year contract to fill a void in center field.

The A’s announced on Tuesday night that the outfielder and 2016 AL stolen bases leader had reached agreement on a deal to play again for the A’s after spending parts of the 2008-10 seasons with Oakland. General manager David Forst wanted to add depth to the outfield during the offseason, and Davis is coming off a special season with the Indians.

The 36-year-old Davis, who also played for San Francisco in 2007 and into ‘08, hit a tying two-run homer off Aroldis Chapman in the eighth inning of a Game 7 World Series loss to the champion Cubs.

“I am very excited to add a guy like Rajai to our team and to our lineup,” catcher Stephen Vogt said in a text message. “He brings a lot of experience and excitement to



This Nov. 2, 2016 file photo shows Cleveland Indians’ Rajai Davis celebrating after his two-run home run against the Chicago Cubs during the eighth inning of Game 7 of the Major League Baseball World Series in Cleveland.

guy that could steal 40-plus bases. I have always thought he was tough to play against, so I’m excited to have him on our side now!”

Davis batted .249 with 12 home runs and 48 RBIs in 134 games during his lone season with Cleveland, his sixth major league team. He had 23 doubles and two triples.

He also had an AL-leading 43 stolen bases, becoming the fourth-oldest player to lead the league in steals after Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson in 1998 and Eddie Collins from 1923-24.

Davis can earn an additional \$450,000 in performance bonuses based on plate appearances: \$100,000 for 500, \$150,000 for 550 and \$200,000 for 600.

Oakland signed right fielder Matt Joyce to an \$11 million, two-year contract in November, and Khris Davis is the left fielder.

To make room on the 40-man roster, the A’s designated infielder Max Muncy for assignment.

Encarnacion takes physical to finalize \$65M Indians deal

CLEVELAND (AP)—Edwin Encarnacion is on deck for the Indians.

The free agent slugger was undergoing a medical evaluation Wednesday, the final step before he joins Cleveland and slides into the middle of the AL champions’ lineup.

One of baseball’s most consistent power hitters, Encarnacion agreed to a \$65 million, three-year contract with the Indians before Christmas. Barring

unforeseen physical issues, the Indians would welcome him at a news conference on Thursday.

Cleveland aggressively pursued Encarnacion, swooping in to lock up the coveted power hitter who was also being chased by big-market clubs. Encarnacion hit 42 homers and drove in 127 runs last season for the Toronto Blue Jays, who lost to the Indians in the AL Championship Series.

Encarnacion, who turns 34

on Saturday, hit 193 homers over the past five years and 310 in his big league career. He is expected to split time at first base and designated hitter with Carlos Santana.

The Indians were in the market for a power bat after deciding not to re-sign Mike Napoli, who helped them get to the World Series. The 34-year-old Napoli set career-highs with 34 homers and 101 RBIs and the club credited his work ethic and leadership in

helping Cleveland’s young players.

Encarnacion appears to be a perfect fit for the Indians, who have been looking for a big bat to compliment of the majors’ best pitching staffs.

With Francisco Lindor and Jason Kipnis at the top of the order, and Michael Brantley possibly returning from a shoulder injury, Cleveland has the right table setters for Encarnacion, who has averaged 110 RBIs over the past five seasons.

ROLLERS

From Page 32

first half when it scored 8 answered points in two minutes, turning a 20-16 advantage to a 28-16 lead. Francisco Mettao then broke Rollers 1’s silence with a point-blank shot, but the Ol’Aces 1 won the next exchange to taste its biggest lead, 32-18. A 10-3 windup from Rollers 1 brought the deficit down to single digit, 28-35, and the Joe Diaz-coached team completed the comeback in the second

half as the Ol’Aces 1 played too complacent after regaining the double-digit advantage.

Meanwhile, in other results last Wednesday, MHS and Jingle Ballers prevailed against their respective foes.

MHS got its first victory in the boys U16 division after whipping Rollers 2 in the curtain-raiser, 53-35.

Three MHS players broke into double figures to lift their team to the easy win. Jedrael Maualo fired 14 points, while E.J. Abejo and Da We Zhang

chipped in 12 each. Three more players hit the board for MHS, while only four scored for Rollers 2 (0-2)

In the women’s division, Jingle Ballers gained its second straight win after edging Armatech, 24-18.

Jingle Ballers, which held a precarious 10-9 lead at the break, shot better in the second half en route to the 6-point win. Jingle Ballers (2-1) knocked in seven field goals—three of them came from Christine Hayag—while Armatech (1-2)

was held to four baskets.

Boys U16 Game

MHS 53 – Maualo 14, Zhang 12, Abejo 12, Tenorio 6, Agustin 4, Mango 3, Prado 2.

Rollers 235 – Duenas 17, J. Agulto 9, A. Agulto 8, Kim 1.

Scoring by halves: 26-16, 53-35.

Women’s Game

Jingle Ballers 24 – Kenty 7, Hayag 6, Dalusong 5, D. Camacho 4, Francisco 2.

Armatech 18 – Lumabi 7,

JR.

From Page 32

at Wodonga Tennis Center in Wodonga, Victoria for the grasscourt event.

From Australia, Song and company will then head to Fiji and will stay there until October to train at the Oceania facility.

“The training is some sort of experiment. We would like to find out how the training in Fiji will be beneficial to them, how different it is from their training here. I hope they will take that opportunity to get even better as we will have

some tough competitions this year in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team won the “Nation’s Cup” in the POJC this year after claiming two singles champions and two doubles semis appearances in the girls and boys U12, U14, and U16 events.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	23	11	.676	—
Boston	21	14	.600	2½
New York	16	19	.457	7½
Philadelphia	9	24	.273	13½
Brooklyn	8	25	.242	14½
Southeast Division				
Charlotte	20	16	.556	—
Atlanta	19	16	.543	½
Washington	16	18	.471	3
Orlando	16	21	.432	4½
Miami	11	26	.297	9½
Central Division				
Cleveland	26	8	.765	—
Milwaukee	18	16	.529	8
Indiana	18	18	.500	9
Chicago	18	18	.500	9
Detroit	16	21	.432	11½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	28	7	.800	—
Houston	27	9	.750	1½
Memphis	22	16	.579	7½
New Orleans	14	22	.389	14½
Dallas	11	24	.314	17
Northwest Division				
Utah	22	14	.611	—
Oklahoma City	21	15	.583	1
Portland	15	22	.405	7½
Denver	14	21	.400	7½
Minnesota	11	24	.314	10½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	31	5	.861	—
L.A. Clippers	24	14	.632	8
Sacramento	15	20	.429	15½
L.A. Lakers	13	25	.342	19
Phoenix	11	25	.306	20
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

MATCHING

From Page 32

from the Federal Emergency Management Agency last year after the association sought for a grant/financial assistance following the damage caused by Typhoon Soudelor to the Oleai Sports Complex.

“Right now, we have no money for the matching funds so we need to ask for help,” the NMSA official said.

Rogolifo added he will suggest to the NMSA board that it appropriate some money from the group’s earnings from the scratch cards for the matching funds. He will work on reimbursement documents (for lights used at the gym), too and turned them in to FEMA, hoping to get some money that they could put into the matching funds.

The NMSA executive director also said he already

sent a letter to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, requesting for financial assistance that will cover portions of the matching funds.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who will still chair the SNILD in the 20th CNMI Legislature, acknowledged receipt of the letter a few months ago last year, but since the 19th CNMI Legislature had its sine die

last Wednesday, they have to wait for the new session to begin before the request is discussed. The new SNILD won’t start its session until the latter part of this month as the inauguration of the 20th CNMI Legislature will only be held this Monday.

“We are aware of the needed repairs at the Ada Gym and other facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex. We will look into it (matching funds)

in our next appropriation budget,” Sablan said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The first phase of the repair work at the Ada Gym includes fixing the leaking roofs, floors, sound system, and scoreboard. Renovations at the Ada Gym and other facilities located at the sports complex are needed as the CNMI prepares for the hosting of the Pacific Mini Games in 2021.

35th Annual Christmas Island Relay

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Runners pose for a photo after completing the 35th Annual Christmas Island Relay held last Saturday.



Dark Horse Get Fit CNMI members pose with their runner-up medals in the open division of the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club to the last Command Post.



From left, Rommel Buenaflor, Father James Balajadia, Lyn Tenorio, Bishop Ryan Jimenez, and Robert Torres make their way to the finish line.



Isabel's Elves runners celebrate their finish.



TRAC Run members head to the finish line at the Last Command Post.



Runners from Triathlon Association of the CNMI (TRAC) gather for a group photo after the race.



Agape Christian School runners wait for their teammates at one of the transition points near T Galleria in Garapan.



Members of the team led by NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, fourth left, are all smiles as they are about to compete the race.



LeBron can't do it alone as Butler, Bulls down Cavs, 106-94

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Saipan Tribune Sports

After brilliant season, Falcons QB Ryan shrugs off MVP talk

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Matching funds needed for Ada Gym repair

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the resurfacing project at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility now moving forward, Northern Marianas Sports Association will shift its focus on the repair work at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tony Rogolifoi, executive director of NMSA, which manages the sports complex and its facilities, said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they will work on the first stage of improvement work at the Ada Gym. However, Rogolifoi added they will need matching funds

(10 percent of the total cost of the project) for the repair work to start.

"We were told by the Department of Public Works that we have to turn in matching funds for the project to begin. The first phase of the repair



works at the Ada Gym will cost \$169,000, so we need close to \$17,000," Rogolifoi said.

The remaining 90 percent will come from the funds NMSA got

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Jr. tennis players' hard work bear fruit



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tania Tan were also selected on elite squads and played in ITF Juniors event, while Robbie Schorr joined the Pacific Oceania Touring Team that participated in the Australian National Championships December Showdown.

"These players work day in and day out to keep improving their games. They worked hard to earn those slots," Race added.

The long-time coach also said the selection of the CNMI players on regional squads is a testament to the Commonwealth's strong program.

"It means we're achieving our goals. We're doing the right thing and heading into right direction," the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said.

"Now, we just have to keep the program running well and continue providing our players the opportunities to get bet-

ter," Race added.

Meanwhile, Song, Miyawaki, Woo, Paik and the Kaga sisters will play their first games in the Margaret Court Cup today at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales. The competition in Albury will run until Jan. 10 and the following day, the six CNMI bets will see action

See JR. on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Malika Miyawaki makes a backhand return during a local tournament last year. She is one of the CNMI junior tennis players who made it to the Pacific Oceania Touring Team that will be competing in Australia beginning today.



Slots on the Pacific Oceania Touring Team that CNMI junior tennis

players got are well deserved.

"These are the products of their hard work in 2016," CNMI Junior Tennis Team coach Jeff Race said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Ken Song, Malika Miyawaki, Jimin Woo, Seung Kin Paik, and siblings Conatsu and Coume Kaga made it on the Pacific Oceania Touring Team and are now in Australia to compete in the 2017 Margaret Court Cup and the 2017 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championship. Mid last year, Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Middle school students play in a league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which needs to undergo repairs in preparation for the CNMI's hosting of the Pacific Mini Games in 2021.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rollers 1 took the solo lead in the men's U25 division of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after pulling off a 63-62 come-from-behind victory over the Ol'Aces 1 last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

June Alipio, Aaron Ogumoro, and Kenji Abobo's baskets down the stretch helped Rollers 1 complete the rally and gave the team a 2-0 record in the six-squad field. The Ol'Aces 1 dropped to a 1-1 mark, squandering a 14-point lead in the first half, 32-18, after collapsing in the end.

The lefty Alipio canned Rollers 1's last field goal (a tri-



Rollers 1 rallies past Ol'Aces 1

ple), while Ogumoro scored 7 points in the second half, including a pair of important free throws in the closing stages of the match. Abobo had 3 straight points in the home stretch and Rollers 1 drew at least one field goal from six other players to overhaul the double-digit deficit and hand the Ol'Aces 1 a sorry loss.

Ogumoro paced Rollers 1 with his 16 points, while Alipio and Dalton Dancoc contributed 11 each. Sid Quan had 14 markers for the Ol'Aces 1.

The Ol'Aces 1 threatened to pull away midway in the

See ROLLERS on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 1's Angelo Factor, right, reaches in to steal the ball from the Ol'Aces 1's Andrew Palino during the second half of their men's U25 division game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.